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SCHOOLS FACE DAD SAFETY B

Report by Richard Guttridge

LOLLIPOP wardens will disappear from outside school gates across the Dudley borough - unless schools pick up

the bill to pay for them.

Cash-strapped Dudley Council is set to axe all of its school crossing patrols as part of drastic cost-cutting measures but will give schools the option to step in to pay for road safety wardens.

wardens.

Bosses have admitted that many schools in other parts of the country have not able to meet similar costs, meaning that the number of lollipop men and women outside schools in the borough is likely to plummet.

Annual costs to schools to keep their wardens would vary, from just over £1,000 to as much as £20,000 for sites which use more than one. All schools run by the local authority are affected. The changes, which would come into force from next year, would save the council around £260,000 per year.

The Labour-controlled authority needs to save £20 million over the next three years fol-

save £20 million over the next three years fol-

save £20 million over the next three years fol-lowing severe budget cuts imposed by the Gov-ernment.

School crossing wardens are an area where the council can save money as the authority is not legally obliged to provide them.

Worried

Dudley Council previously revealed plans to

Dudley Council previously revealed plans to charge schools for their wardens but has now said crossings will go unmanned if schools cannot afford, or choose not, to keep them.

The plans are likely to be met by a back-lash from worried parents. In recent years, campaigns have been launched by parents at schools where retiring wardens have not been replaced. Meanwhile, many school budgets are already stretched.

New 20mph zones are set to be rolled out at 15 schools in the borough, which bosses hope will lessen the need for crossing wardens.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the council's opposition Conservative Group, accused the council of 'shirking its responsibility' and 'morally blackmailing' schools.

He said: "We know the authority has got to make savings but they shouldn't be making frontline cuts that have a direct impact on people who use them, in this case, parents and children. It's scandalous."

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "The service is not a statutory requirement but the council has previously been in a position to fund this service to schools across the borough.

"While we recognise its importance, we do need to look at alternative options to fund the service due to the unprecedented times we face as a result of significantly reduced funding

service due to the unprecedented times we face as a result of significantly reduced funding from central Government."

IS FINED £1,000 FOR RACIST COMMENT



Fined £1,000 - Paul Gascoigne arrives at Dudley Magistrates Court to plead guilty to racially-aggravated harassment of a security guard

FORMER England footballer Paul Gascoigne was fined £1,000 at Dudley Magistrates Court after admitting racially abusing a black security guard at Wolverhampton Civic Hall He was also ordered to pay £1,000 compensation to Errol Rowe over the comment made in front of hundreds of people during his 'An Evening with Gazza' show last year. The bodyguard was standing in the shadows at the side of the stage when Gascoigne asked him "can you smile so I can see you?" during the show. But he denied an allegation that he had made a comment in the dressing room that made a comment in the dressing room that

he "didn't know my security had a sun tan".

Mr Rowe said he had been "humiliated" and reduced to tears by the abuse from his football hero.

District Judge Graham Wilkinson told the District Judge Granam Wilkinson told the former Newcastle, Spurs and Glasgow Rangers player that his words were "insidious racism that needed to be challenged" and that he had targeted Mr Rowe because of his colour in order to "get a laugh."

"Mr Rowe was clearly humiliated on stage because of no other reason than the colour of his chief." [This is not than the colour of the chief."]

his skin. This is a very serious offence.'

Lawyer Gavin Harris told the court: "Mr Cascoigne is sorry for the offence he caused Mr Rowe that evening." Mr Harris added: "The words used were

not said out of malice but were from a bygone

age.

Dressed in a pinstripe suit, Gazza, 49, who lives in Poole, Dorset, signed autographs and posed for pictures with fans before heading into court to plead guilty to racially-aggravated harassment. He was ordered to pay \$600 in court costs before being driven away in a Porsche.

RETAIL

Bosses in 'reluctant' decision to shut store

THE Co-op on Stourbridge High Street is set to close with 19 jobs put at risk. The shop is expected to shut down on October 1.

A Co-op spokesman said: "The decision to close any store is taken with the greatest reluctance, and forms part of our ongoing food store review.

"Colleagues have been informed and every effort will be made to find alternative employment for them. We would like to thank our customers for their valued custom and support."

POLICE

Man arrested over alleged hit-and-run

A MAN has been arrested over a suspected hit-and-run that left two women and two young children injured.

The 27-year-old was arrested in Stourbridge in the early hours of Monday on suspicion of assault.

Two three-year-old children and two adults were injured when they were hit close to Hob Green Primary School in Hob Green Road, Wollescote.

The youngsters – a boy and a girl –

The youngsters – a boy and a girl – and the two women were not seriously hurt in last Monday morning's incident

SPORT

£20k fund boost for football club's base

A STATE-OF-THE-ART pavilion will be created on a village playing fields after a football club was awarded more than £20,000

in funding.

The cash will allow West Hagley Football Club to create the facility aimed at encouraging more boys and girls to take up

soccer.

The club will receive £21,500 after a funding bid to the Veolia Environmental Trust was successful.

Bosses have been aiming to to replace run-down changing rooms on the Hagley Playing Fields for years. The new funding means the project can now be completed.

INSIDE

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Concern over constituency shake-up

mission plans to abolish the Halesowen and Rowley Regis seat as part of a huge carve-up of Parlia-

ley kegs seat as part of a nuge carve-up of Parinamentary constituencies.

Mr Morris, who has held the seat for the Tories since 2010, says he is considering appealing the proposal, which would see Halesowen North, Halesowen and South Belle Vale become part of a new Selly Oak and Halesowen constituency. He said: "I am disappointed that the commission has split parts of Halesowen and Rowley Regis in its

"There will now be a period of consultation and over the next few days I will be talking to commu-

stricter regulations on the use of betting machines after it emerged that the region's punt-

ers had gambled away more than £45 million over the last year. Figures from the Campaign for Fair-

er Gambling (CFG) show more than £226 million was gambled in the re-

gion's betting shop machines in 2015, with losses amounting to more than £123,000 a day.
Dudley South MP Mike Wood said: "The

Dudley South MP Mike Wood said: "The figures regarding how much cash is put into these machines are frightening. "This sort of high stakes gambling has a huge impact on a number of social issues and can obviously lead to debt."

and can obviously lead to debt.

"We need a review as quickly as possible to make sure stricter regulations are brought in to restrict the damage that people can cause by using these machines."

Tory MP Mr Wood also called for devolution plans for the West Midlands to include a machine of the machine of t

clude powers for communities to determine

whether new bookmakers are allowed to open.
"This is the sort of decision that could be passed down to a local level," added Mr Wood.

Controls

als and putting together a local response."

The plans would also see Blackheath, Cradley Heath, Rowley and Old Hill shift into the Warley constituency, while Hayley Green and Cradley South would be part of the Stourbridge constituency.

ency.

The West Midlands is one of the most radically affected regions in the Boundary Commission's review of Parliamentary constituencies.

The area is set to lose six seats under in a proposed move which will reduced the total number of MPs in Britain from 650 to 600.

Two seats in the Black Country will disappear,

Calls grow for action

while some wards will come under Birmingham constituencies. They include Sandwell's Abbey ward, which will be incorporated into Birmingham Edgbaston, Soho and Victoria, which becomes part of Ladywood, and Walsall's Pheasey Park Farm, which becomes part of Birmingham Erdington.

Brierley Hill will be put in to Stourbridge, leaving the new Dudley West ward without a civic centre. Walsall North is set to be abolished and the

two West Bromwich seats carved up as part of a

new West Bromwich constituency.

The changes will pit MPs for the same party against each other and could have a big impact on the outcome of the 2020 General Election.

restaurant gets £7k fine THE owners of an Indian restaurant have been handed a court bill of more than $\pounds 7,000$ after an inspection uncovered mouldy walls and rat droppings

Rat droppings

and mould -

under a sink.

Dudley Council took action after an inspection in August 2015 at Pedro's Indian Cuisine in Market Street, Kingswinford.

A dead not to the Council of the Council of the Council of the Council of the Council

swinford.

A dead rat was found in the side alleyway, while droppings were discovered among filthy conditions in the kitchen, where the floor and walls were dirty and mouldy. Food storage containers were also dirty and rotting coriander and carliflower was found in a fridge.

Staff had been given no food hygiene training and an adequate food safety

Staff had been given no food hygiene training and an adequate food safety management system was not in place, Pedro's Fine Eatery pleaded guilty to eight offences under food hygiene and safety regulations at Dudley Magistrates Court. They were fined 25,000 and ordered to pay costs of 22 16 and 5120 dered to pay costs of £2,216 and £120 victim surcharge.

victim surcharge.

In a separate case, the New Chicken Hut in Brierley Hill was dealt with after inspectors found dirty floors, walls, basins and fridges at the High Streat takeaway. Equipment including a frying basket and chopping boards was damaged. Staff there had not been trained and there was no adequate food safety management system.

Boss Naeem Khan pleaded guilty to seven offences under food hygiene and safety regulations at Dudley Magistrates Court. He was fined £300, ordered to pay

Court. He was fined £300, ordered to pay £1.750 costs and a surcharge of £20

on high stakes betting Fund for player's cancer treatment



Latham Grant, aged 21, with girlfriend Suzanna Priest and parents Chris Grant and Tracy Hughes-Grant

The CFG has called for a reduction in stakes on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOTBs) which allow punters to bet up to £100 every 20 seconds.

2100 every 20 seconds.

Wolverhampton council leader Roger
Lawrence said the authority was actively
seeking ways to increase controls on the
use of FOBTs. "It is clear that people who
use these machines can lose a lot of money
in a very short space of time," he said.

Councillor Steve Eling, leader of
Sandwell Council, said that in the past the
authority had its 'hands tied' when it came
to controlling the number of betting shops
in Sandwell. He added: "There simply must
be more regulation."

be more regulation."

Peter Craske, from the Association of British Bookmakers, said that the vast majority of customers bet responsibly.

"We understand there are a minority of

people that could be considered to have a problem, but we have brought in a number of measures to address that," he added.

MORE than £7 500 has been raised towards specialist treatment for a Stafford Rangers footballer who has a rare type of cancer. Latham Grant, who lives in Sedg-

ley, was diagnosed with the neck and head disease, nasopharyngeal cancer, on June 22. Now the 21-year-old is in a race

against time as he looks to raise £40,000 for homoeopathic treat-

The semi-professional footballer could have gone down the route of

chemotherapy and radiotherapy to fight the disease, which affects one in 100,000 with cancer, but in his case the chances of survival can be as low as two per cent.

So he is aiming to go down the alternative route of undergoing oxygen therapy and sticking to an alkaline diet.

"I've had to change my life a lot and start eating better," he said.

"Not so much adding the healthy foods but cutting out the unhealthy and artificial foods.

"A lot of my family and people close to home have suffered from cancer before and not made it through. I believe that was a lot down to the treatments they were receiving."

Latham is already following a strict diet routine to cleanse the body and give it the strongest fighting chance of success.

To help him get the treatment he needs, go to Latham Grant's cancer treatment fund at www.youcaring.com/latham-grant-622264

Man is arrested by armed police

ARMED police were called to a Dudley

town centre street amid reports of a man brandishing a gun.
Police were called to North Street just after 11.25am last Wednesday (Septem-ber 15) after reports of a man with an alleged firearm.
West Midlands Police spokesman Kate Baker said: "Armed officers cordoned off the road and shortly after arrested a 28-year-old man on suspicion of posses-sion of a firearm. No one was injured in the incident."
An employee from Edward Gray Of

An employee from Edward Gray Of Dudley Ltd, in North Street, said: "It Dudley Ltd, in North Street, Said: It was about noon when there was a load of police at the bottom end of the road. The road was cordoned off but it cleared shortly after. A few of our workers went outside to see what was going on."

Community centre building under way

WORK on a £700,000 community centre in Dudley has begun. The North Priory Community Centre, near Donkey Pool playing fields, on Priory Road, has been eight years in the planning. Ground preparations took place last November and construction began this week.







No Further We Are The Leading Specialists in

Flats plan at former audio visual **business**

THE former base of an independent electrical retailer in Dudley could be turned into seven apartments, under

The five-storey building on the town High Street was occupied by Derann Audio Visual, a family-run businesses famous for supplying cine film and associated equipment, which now operates online instead.

Now a proposal has been submitted to Dudley Council to turn the empty building into five two-bed apartments and two one-bed apartments.

It would see the demolition of the rear wing of the building and the car park would remain.

The work would be carried out in two stages with the second phase seeing a new building with a shop and some of the apartments above.

Protect

In a document attached to the application, it states: "In its current condition the building is vacant and could result in damage by anti-social behaviour.

"In order to protect and retain the architectural features of the listed building from damage it is important to make use of the building as soon as possible.

"Therefore the proposed retention retail shop would be beneficial as the building is located in a busy area."

A decision will be made by Dudley planners in coming weeks

Tribute show for organist Brian

A CONCERT will take place to remember Dudley organist Brian Sharp, who died earlier this year. Mr Sharp made regular appearances on BBC Radio 2 and was part of the house band on TV shows Pebble Mill at One and Saturday Night at the Mill.

The event will be at the Mercure Kidderminster Hotel, in Habberley Road, Bewdley, on Monday at 8pm with proceeds to the Deanesly Centre Trust at New Cross Hospital.

The concert will feature organists Howard Beaumont, from the Spa Complex in Scarborough; Jean Martyn, of Britain's Got Talent fame, Byron Jones, from Bristol; and Stourbridge's David Ingley. Tickets £10 will be available on the night. Call George Ingley on (01384) 274500.

End of summer event at park

THE Friends of Wollescote Park are holding an End of Summer Fayre on Saturday at the park from 11am to 3pm. The event is free admission and will feature stalls, tombola, raffle, barbecue and other refreshments.

Rail centre on track to deliver 200 jobs

more than 200 jobs and 300 apprenticeships across

more than 200 jobs and 300 apprenticeships across five years, say council bosses.

Contracts are on the verge of being signed for the £27.8 million very light rail complex at Dudley's Castle Hill. Council chiefs have promised the 'world class' centre will create 225 jobs, 331 apprenticeships and 33 new businesses by 2021.

The route of the very light rail will run from this centre through Dudley Tunnel before terminating close to Cinder Bank. News of the centre's opportunities have been revealed in pages due to

opportunities have been revealed in papers due to come before Dudley Council's cabinet meeting. The document states: "The project will create a world class research, development and educational centre

Rail vehicles on land in the ownership of the Council at Castle Hill. The centre, requiring the use of test track facilities, would be ideally situated adjacent to track facilities, would be ide the mothballed freight line.

Partnership

Partnership
"Working in partnership with the Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG), other higher education bodies, transport suppliers and neighbouring local authorities, the centre will lead on the development of the vehicles, associated infrastructure and training for the next generation of public transport solu-

Dudley was one of the biggest communities in the country to be hit as a result of the closures brought

about by Dr Richard Beeching's report. Following his findings the station at the bottom of Castle Hill was closed in July 1964.

Dudley Council's transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "It is not just nationally but internationally significant, as part of the old Beeching

ternationary significant, as part of the out beeching lines being reopened."

He added: "It is really good news that it is going to create 225 jobs and more than 300 apprenticeships by the end of 2021, but we are also looking to generate even more job creation."

The modern centrein the shadow of Dudley Cas-tle, will develop and test the next generation of light rail systems, will link Dudley to the national rail network for the first time in more than 50 years.

Shirt over head robber jailed after crime spree

bookmakers and a supermarket during a four-day crime spree, and terrified staff who believed he had a gun, has been jailed for six years.

Serial thief Michael Webb had workers running for cover as he burst into two William Hill bookmakers in Stourbridge

william filli bookmakers in Stourbridge and also got away with £600 cash from a Sainsbury's, a judge heard. Webb, aged 37, went into the stores holding up an item covered by a carrier bag, which he led staff to believe was a gun – he later said it

was just a rolled up newspaper.
Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how he targeted William Hill in Wollaston at around 9pm on August 12. The robber demanded the man working behind the counter fill up his bag with cash. Believing Webb to have a gun, the worker fled from the counter to a back office

worker fled from the counter to a back office and called the police.

Ms Joanne Barker, prosecuting, told the court that Webb, who has racked up 19 convictions and had been given a suspended prison sentence for burglary three days earlier, then abandoned the robbery attempt.

But tried his luck again less than an hour later at Sainsbury's in Wollaston and this time was successful.

was successful.

Ms Barker said: "He ran into the store with his shirt over his head and again demanded money. The assistant activated the alarm and, believing the defendant had a gun, complied with his demands."

Three days later, at around 9pm, Webb tried to get his hands on more money at William Hill in Amblecote but was again thwarted. This time he had seed a conscipring his hands on more money.

time he had socks covering his hands and arms to cover his distinctive tattoos, the court heard. Again, the raider held up a bag, which the frightened man behind the counter believed had a gun inside. But after the worker ran to

an office, Webb was unable to get past the glass screen and left empty-handed. Webb, of Kingsway, Wollaston, who the court heard was a cocaine addict, was caught after neard was a cocaline aduct, was caught after stealing a pack of razor blades from a Tesco store. He was found in possession of a kitchen knife in Birmingham Street, Stourbridge. Webb pleaded guilty to robbery, two counts of attempted robbery, theft and possession of an article with a blade or point.

Fizzogs take new show on tour



The Fizzogs - Jackie, Sue and Deb - as the Dancing Grannies, seen at Stourbridge Carnival

BLACK Country comedy group The Fizzogs have a new comedy sketch show that is going on tour from December to March. Suck It and See will feature many of the famous Fizzogs char-acters, including the dancing grannies that became in internet sensation.

Fizzog Productions last month took the show to the Edinburgh Fringe, their second trip to the huge arts festival in the Scottish

be staged at Birmingham's Crescent Theatre from January 12 to

Tickets will be £15 for all per-formances and can be booked through the website at www.

capital. Also appearing with the Fizzogs will be Black country comedian Jonny Cole.

The first dates for the show, which is suitable for the over-14s, are at Netherton Arts Centre from December 15 to 17 and it will then a color by Sue Hawkins, Jacky

Fizzog Productions was formed in 2000 by Sue Hawkins, Jacky Fellows and Deb Nicholls. They will also stage A Black Country Fairy Tale... Ay It! at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on October 27. Call the Grand's box office on 01902 429 212

NEWS IN BRIEF 3 Defibrillator to

be put in church A CHURCH in Dudley is having a life-saving defibrillator machine installed.

Dudley Community Church in Salop Street was donated the device by West

Midlands Ambulance Service.

It is used to help restart the heart of someone in cardiac arrest and is now on hand at the church to help anyone in the community when an emergency

happens.
Andy Jevnes, the trust's community response manager, also provided first aid and defibrillator training to staff at the church and counselling centre.

Parliament pops up in town centre

YOUNG people are being invited to have their say at a 'Pop up Parliament' event coming to Dudley town centre on Saturday.

The event in Market Place will be hosted by the Dudley Youth Council as part of a national youth consultation called 'Make your Mark'. organised by the UK Youth Parliament to find out what young people want their repre sentatives to focus on.

The 'Pop up Parliament' runs from 10am to 4pm. Anyone aged 11 to 18 can take part. For further details contact Darren Foley (01384) 815174.

Green light for a new car park

WORK on a new car park in Dudley town centre is due to be completed in time for Christmas shopping.

It comes as archaeological investi gations were completed last week on land earmarked for the 90 space car park in Tower Street.

Walls and floors of cellars from that date from the Georgian period were uncovered. However, nothing of sig-nificance has been identified as part of the dig, so construction can continue.

Aldi store to open on pub site next month

A NEW supermarket is set to open in Dudley at the end of October. The Aldi store will open its doors on the site of the demolished King Arthur pub, next

the demonster Ang Artany puts, next to Birmingham New Road. In recent weeks work has pro-gressed quickly, with the structure and the 94-space car park taking shape, alongside promotional signs outside the premises. Bosses say that they received a large

amount of support from the local com munity for the new store.

Slasher tales in librarv

THE Friends of Sedgley Library will be finding out about the Tipton Slasher this morning (Thursday). Chris Smith is giving a talk at 10.30am on bare-knuckle fighter William Perry, who was twice champion of England. The talk is at the library in Ladies Walk at 10.30am, £2 admission





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THE BEST OF



AS the row over grammar schools rages on, it occurs to me that the five Rho-des Boys - I was the second of five sons must have been a rare thing among the education statistics. All five of us passed the 11-plus to grammar school but not one of us went to university.

I DON'T recall the 11-plus being particularly difficult, even if some of the questions were bonkers. I remember one test paper where you had to fill in the missing word: "In the park we throw c---s for the birds." The correct answer was "crumbs" but half of us put "crusts". We argued that crumbs are far too light to be thrown and this paper had obviously been written by someone who never fed the birds. In the face of a revolt, the teacher backed down and gave

I TAKE issue, too, with one of the many questions from original 11-plus papers now being reprinted in the newspapers: "How many thirds are there in nine?" The "correct" answer is 27 and I can see why. But if you take the view that everything, from a sack of coal to a 1,000-metre race, is made up of three thirds then there are three thirds in nine, each third being three. I may have passed my 11-plus but I managed to fail maths O-level three times.

MONDAY: David Cameron stands down as an MP, saying he does not want to be a "distraction" to MP Theresa May. Wednes-day: the Commons foreign affairs com-



mittee criticises the Cameron government for its intervention in Libya. There may be a connection. And yet how many politicians and pundits who

are now castigating Cameron and drawing wild comparisons with Blair's war on Iraq were leading the "we must do something" campaign back in 2011? Remember the pitiful images of terrified Libyan children appealing to the world to help? A massacre in Benghazi seemed imminent. How could we not intervene? Action was approved by the United Nations. Hindsight is always crystal-clear.

LINTERVIEWED Cameron a few times He struck me as an essentially decent man who answered straight questions with far straighter answers than some politicians I could mention.

THERE is a serious purpose to my trip to Yorkshire. Exactly 100 years ago, my grandfather's brother, 20-year-old Private Alvin Smith, was in a front-line trench on the Somme. It was the last day of his life. A century on, in his home village, we will remember him

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your **Express & Star**

Corbyn says let's unite and move forward Too many

The Labour leader was speaking

LABOUR leader Jeremy Corbyn has called on Ian Austin to unite with him and 'move forward' with the party under his leadership.

It came as reports surfaced of a plan to oust fellow Black Country MP Tom Watson from his position as deputy leader, which has been denied by Mr Corbyn.

The Labour leader was speaking a the Express & Star following a leadership rally in Birmingham which stracted thousands of supporters on Saturday.

Asked what his message would be to the Dudley North MP included on a 'hit-list' of rebels, Mr Corbyn said: "I know Ian like I know other Labour MPs and I will be talking to Ian and all of them and say, 'well actually on all of them and say, 'well actually on a like I know the say in the same say, 'well actually on a long of them and say, 'well actually on a like I know the same say, 'well actually on a long of them and say, 'well actually on a long of them and say, 'well actually on a long of them and say, 'well actually on a long of the say in the same Asked what his message would be to the Dudley North MP included on a 'hit-list' of rebels, Mr Corbyn said: "I know Ian like I know other Labour MPs and I will be talking to Ian and all of them and say, 'well, actually on

the politics which go with that we are united. We can move forward, and as we defeated the Tories on tax credits,

we can do the same on these."

Mr Austin has been a vocal opponent of Mr Corbyn since he took of-

fice last year.

Mr Austin responded to his leader's comments, saying: "Jeremy keeps calling for unity, but last week members were really dismayed to see

MPs
"I want a united, competent Labour Party that can earn the trust of people in the Black Country and of people in the Black Country and win an election. Jeremy needs to put together a competent team, set out policies that win the public's trust, persuade them he's a potential Prime Minister and take us ahead in the

homes left empty, says

A DUDLEY councillor has called on the Government to focus on refurbishing empty properties to help ease the housing crisis.

According to Government statistics there are currently 600,000 empty homes in the UK and Bill Etheridge said they should be used to house people struggling to find somewhere to live.

UKIP Euro MP Mr Etheridge, who represents Sedgley on Dudley Coun-cil, also attacked landlords who leave

properties empty.

He claimed that cutting immigration could help solve the problem.

He said: "It is very important that

He said: "It is very important that the Government speed up refurbish-ments and transactions in order to get these UK families housed."

Curb

"The continuation of mass immigration has seen property prices rise to the point where there is now a buy-to-leave market, where owners are simply leaving property empty and watching its value increase.

watching its value increase.

"A curb on the levels of migrants would make this option less attractive. If these steps are taken there would be no need for unnecessary large scale building. Unless, of course, there is a hidden agenda? "Are these proposed houses being built for our citizens or is the Government planning to allow immigration to continue at its current level?

"I think it's time we had some an-

"I think it's time we had some answers as to what is happening.

Riders turning out for funeral tribute

MORE than 100 motorcyclists were due to form a procession for the fu-neral of an apprentice engineer, who died in a road accident at Brierley Hill earlier this month.

The procession was honouring Elliott Beddow, of Stourton, who died on September 3 after he came off his Harley Davidson during the accident on Brettell Lane.

The procession was due to set off from this home before his funeral yes-terday (Wednesday) at Stourbridge Crematorium.

Phil Beavens, funeral director H Phil beavens, funeral director in Porter and Sons, in Stourbridge, said: "Although he was only 20, he was a member of a number of motorcycle groups and very well thought of by his family, close friends and peers."

Chess club forced to close after 40 years

IT'S checkmate for Hagley Chess Club, which has been forced to close due to falling membership. Hagley Chess Club, which formed in the 1970s, took the reluctant deci-

sion to close at the club's annual gen-eral meeting in May.

Austin fury over Labour leader's hit-list of MPs

By Peter Madeley

FURIOUS Ian Austin has accused Jeremy Corbyn of hypocrisy after he was criticised for undermining the Labour leader on a 'hit-list'

of party rebels.
The Dudley North MP was among
13 Labour politicians – including
deputy leader and fellow Black
Country MP Tom Watson – that
were said to have abused Mr Corbyn
and his allies in a list distributed to
the media. the media.

His inclusion is thought to relate

His inclusion is thought to relate to a Commons debate on the Chilcot report in July, during which he told the Labour leader to 'shut up' and shouted 'you're a disgrace'.

Mr Austin said: "Members won't understand how Jeremy can call for unity, but then issue a hit list of MPs that includes our deputy leader. Labour needs to get the leadership election over and focus on taking the fight to the Tories."

Mr Corbon's campaign team said

on taking the light to the TOTES."

Mr Corbyn's campaign team said
the list was a draft press release that
had not been signed off and was issued accidentally, but he did not
apologise for its release during last
Wednesday night's televised Labour
hustings. hustings.

Grassroots

West Bromwich East MP Mr Watson received an apology from shadow chancellor John McDonsnadow chancellor John McDon-nell's media advisor, James Mills, after he was included on the list for calling grassroots campaign group Momentum a 'rabble'. Mr Watson said: "I have received

Mr Watson said: "I have received an apology on behalf of the campaign and that's good enough for me. You get hotheads in any campaign team, but this has been dealt with in the right way."

The list also features Birmingham Yardley MP Jess Phillips, who said she received a threat that was linked

she received a threat that was linked to being named on the list. It also includes Mr Corbyn's leadership op-ponent Owen Smith,.

Mr Austin has been a vocal opponent of Mr Corbyn since he took office last year, and has admitted to opposing him on a raft of key issues.



Labour deputy leader Tom Watson received an apology after his inclusion on the party rebel list



Dudley North MP Ian Austin during a Commons debate



Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is under fire

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burglar in halfway house raid

A BURGLAR with a drug problem, who stole from the halfway house where he had been living, has been locked up for more than two years.

scotted up for more than two years.
Scott Harris kept the keys to the property after being evicted and used them to get into the address in Highgate Road, Brierley Hill.
The 31-year-old father-of-four took a tumble dryer.

He was identified as the culprit on CCTV film of the August 12 incident andwas arrested six days later.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard worvernampton Crown Court near-that on June 14 he had stolen a Play-Station games console from the home of his sister which he sold to fund his drug addiction.

Mrs Sati Ruck, prosecuting, said both crimes broke the terms of a 12-

month suspended prison sentence imposed on the defendant for an unrelated offence.

Heroin

Mr Richard Davenport, defending, said: "He has had difficulties with the use of heroin and crack and had spi-ralled back into addiction.

"It was not a normal dwelling house burglary. This was an establishment that housed people with problems. It was shared supported accommoda-

tion."
Harris from Wavell Road, Quarry
Bank admitted burglary, theft and
breaching the terms of the suspended
sentence, which was activated in full.
He was jailed for a total of two years

National pet show on way to the NEC

THE National Pet Show is coming to Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre in November.

The exhibition over the weekend of November 5 and 6 will feature many animal experts and celebrities from the small screen.

These will include Channel 4's Su-These will include Channel 4's Supervet Professor Noel Fitzpatrick, who will be presenting the Eukanuba Supervet Live, and BBC's Spring and Autumn Watch presenter Michaela Strachan, who is hosting SuperDogs Live

Adult tickets for the show are priced at £17 and child tickets are priced at £12.

For more information on this year's event visit www.thenationalpetshow com website.

Musical needs a hand backstage

A THEATRE group needs backstage help for its next production. Trinity Musical Theatre Company stages The Witches of Eastwick in the Mill Thea-tre at the Dormston Centre, Sedgley, in November. Call 07428 001237.

Drug addict Youngsters climb as a tribute to brother



Martha and Archie with fundraising

A YOUNG boy whose twin brother died during his birth has raised cash

died during his birth has raised cash for a hospital 10 years on.

Eight-year-old Archie Bradburn, of Moor Lane, Pattingham, climbed Snowdon with family and friends, raising just under £700 for the Maternity Unit and Bereavement Services at Russell's Hall Hospital in Dudley.

During labour on September 17 2006, Archie's mother, Kelly Bradburn, lost her son Alfie due to complications.

plications.

Now, Archie and his younger sister Martha, aged seven, have raised just

under £700 for the maternity unit at Russells Hall in memory of their brother and to thank them for their

brother and to thank them for their hard work.

They climbed Snowdon alongside Kelly, 36, her 39-year-old husband Martyn – who works for JLR – and family friends Michelle and Stephen Handley and their children Freddie and Josie.

Kelly, a cabin crew worker for Mon-arch, said not a day goes by where she doesn't think about Alfie, who was died after she suffered a miscarriage at 20 weeks back in September 2006.

meant Archie was saved and born healthy in January 2007.

Archie wanted to do some fundrais-ing this year for the hospital in aid of

the brother he never got to know.

"For their little legs it was very challenging," Kelly said. "But they hardly complained at all.

"When they got to the bottom they said next time around they will be going to Everest.

"After we left the hospital Archie

was already talking about what he can

If anyone has had any power tools stolen prior to August 12, email PC Naomi Smith on n.e.smith@west-mid lands.pnn.police.uk **Society planning** a Rotten show

Police seeking

owners of tools

POLICE officers are appealing for help to find the owners of power tools recovered during an investigation. A number of the stolen tools have been traced back to victims from Dud-

been traced back to victims from Dud-ley, the Black Country, as well as Staf-fordshire and West Mercia.

The tools were recovered at a prop-erty in Coseley on August 12.

Officers would like to return the re-

maining tools to the rightful owners

THE Tab Operatic Society is marking its 70th anniversary year by performing comedy musical Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.

The group has successfully secured the performing rights for the hit West End show and has hired Stourbridge Town Hall Theatre for the large scale musical. The move of venue will be only Tab's second in its history, having previously performed at the Tabernacle Church Hall in Old Hill and, more recently, Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels will be per formed from March 27 to April 1.

Bluetones singer at the Scarycanary

A SINGER-SONGWRITER who fronted a popular 1990s band will be performing in Stourbridge next month. Bluetones frontman Mark Morriss

will taking to the stage of Scarycanary The Venue, on High Street, on Octo

The venue, on Mg. 2011
ber 1.

New songs and Bluetones favourites will be performed on the night. Tickets cost £8 in advance or £10. Dors open 7pm. To book visit www.wegot tickets.com/event/367523

Coffee and cake with MP to help Macmillan

DUDLEY South MP Mike Wood will be holding a coffee morning later this month to raise money for cancer charity Macmillan.

The event will take place at his nev consistency office in Wordsley, 111/ High Street, on September 30, run ning from 10am to 2pm.

It is being held as part Macmillan national awareness campaign which is run every year. Turn up on the day to take part and make a small donation for a coffee and slice of cake.

Pub joins charity event

A STOURBRIDGE pub is holding ar event for a cancer charity.

The Starving Rascal pub on the cor-ner of Collis Street and Brettell Lane, will be hosting a fundraiser as part of Macmillan Cancer Support's World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday September 30, from 11am.

Muggers hunted after attack on grandfather

gers who attacked a terminally-ill pensioner as he went to get his hair cut in

Brierley Hill town centre.

Roy Weston was robbed of his and his wife's weekly pension money in broad daylight last Monday morning, September 12.

The 78-year-old grandfather was pushed from behind by a man and a woman as the callous this was pounced.

behind by a man and a woman as the callous thieves pounced.

Mr Weston had picked up the pension money from the post office and had walked the short distance to Pepe's hairdressers in High Street at around 9.20am. He was attacked as he was about to walk through the door.

The frail victim, who was diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer last year, was left shaken by the attack.

the attack..

Mr Weston, who lives in Brierley Hill, said: "I Mr Weston, who lives in Brierley Hill, said: 'I left the wife in the hairdressers and went to the post office. I went back to the hairdressers and as I opened the door a man and a woman came from behind me and pushed me into the hairdressers. Before I realised it, my money had gone."

Frightened

Mr Weston and his wife Maureen, 76, have been left scared to go into the town centre following the incident. He said: "It has knocked us about a bit, with my cancer. It has really upset us, it has fright-

"We are frightened to go up the town and I have been going for years and years. I'll always be look-ing behind."

She said: 16 mug an OAP of their pension oney is disgusting.
"If anybody has got information about what hapened please come forward. How would you feel if t was your parents who had just been mugged? Please come forward."

Mr Weston previously worked at the Marsh and butter the factor with but town before wetting and

Mr Weston previously worked at the Marsh and Baxter meat factory in the town before retirement. West Midlands Police spokeswoman Gina Lycett said: "We are appealing for information after a man had his pension stolen in Brierley Hill.

"Anyone with information is urged to contact West Midlands Police or to contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111."



Maureen Weston, with her husband Roy, who was mugged in the street after collecting their pension money

Free spooky Halloween fun for families

FAMILIES can enjoy two free Halloween trails with prizes up

Halloween trails with prizes up for grabs.

The events will be taking place during next half term, from October 22 to 31.

A spooky trail will be available from Netherton and Brierley Hill libraries to lead families around the two town centres.

Youngsters who solve the clues can put their completed forms

into a prize draw and a winner

mil be picked at each library.

Netherton Library holds the Halloween trail on October 28 when there will also be storytelling at 11am and themed craft activities the storytes the day. The ing at 11am and themed crart ac-tivities throughout the day. The Brierley Hill trail is on October 29 with the stories and craft ac-tivities taking place from 1pm. The winners will get a family ticket for the Himley Hall bon-

fire and fireworks show, worth £23 plus free parking. Youngsters are asked to wear spooky fancy dress for the storytelling. Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "I hope that families make the most of this opportunity to spend time time in our town centres whilst enjoying the fun of Halloween."

Visit www.discoverdudley.org. uk for further details.

Advertisement

Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople

perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Stourbridge & the surrounding areas and manager Brian Stanley agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes

good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for. which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

So, if your windows are steamed up. broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!





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IN MY VIEW

On your bike! They are also

BRAVO! West Midlands Police have been

to blame

BRAVO! West Midlands Police have been employing undercover officers in plain clothes to ride around the area on bikes to catch motorists who do not leave enough space when overtaking.

And they have been very busy, it seems, with 38 prosecutions over the summer. Good work all fround.

The only thing that surprises me about all this is that we are still allowed to overtake cyclists. I would have thought by now it would surely have been classed as a 'hate crime', like wolf-whistling is in Nottingham. Nottingham.

Nottingham.

In the balance of fairness, though, I'm sure that an equal number of undercover police officers will now be deployed to catch cyclists who use the pavements as a motorway, ride two-abreast on narrow country lanes, and — most annoyingly of all — treat red traffic lights as if they apply solely to other road users.

solely to other road users.

Because I'm sure nobody would want to see one group given preferential treatment over another.

SATURDAY night television, particularly reality television, is something I normally give a wide berth. X Factor, Come Dancing, Dancing on Ice or whatever, I usually avoid it like anthrax. However, I will level with you, the other Saturday I accidentally caught a bit of X Factor. Only a few minutes, but nevertheless I apologise for momentarity contributing to the viewing momentarily contributing to the viewing figures and I will try not to do it again.

Two thoughts sprang to mind. Why does anybody watch this tired, cliché-rid-den nonsense? And secondly, why is Meg Richardson off Crossroads on the





So who is judge – Sharon Osbourne or Crossroads' Meg Richardson?

IF, as expected, Jeremy Corbyn is re-elected Labour leader this Saturday, he might want to thank Birmingham regae group UB40 who backed his campaign. Or at least some of them did. You see, UB40 is now split into two factions see, 0440 is now split throt wo factions each laying claim to the name. On one hand, Brian Travers, Robin and Duncan Campell, Norman Hassan, Jimmy Brown and Earl Falconer, were in Team Corbyn. The other faction made up of former frontman Ali Campbell, Mickey Virtue and Terence 'Astro' Oswald, have not, as far see I are average departed a position.

rerence 'Astro' Uswald, nave not, as far as I am aware, declared a position.

The three Campbells, are all brothers, but Ali fell out with Robin and Duncas ome years ago. Splits, factions, good thing none of that goes on in politics.







'Vaping' at heart of new health warning

Worrying new research has cast doubt on the safety of electronic cigarettes. Report by MARK ANDREWS.

TEN years ago, electronic cigarettes were practically unheard of. Last year it was estimated that there were 2.6 million "vapers" in Britain alone.

The sight of people sucking on metal The sight of people sucking on metail pen-shaped objects, emitting clouds of sweet-smelling vapour has become a familiar one as people turn to e-cigs in an attempt to give up smoking.

But now concerns have been raised that vaping could be as bad for the heart as smoking cigarettes. Worrying new research has found that the use of electronic cigarettes caused with the control of the statement of

that the use of electronic cigarettes caused similar effects to the main heart artery as smoking the real thing. The research, which was presented at the world's largest cardiology conference, flies in the face of advice from Public Health England, which last year said vaping is 95 per cent less harmful than tobacco.

Prescribe

It called for GPs to be able to prescribe e-cigarettes on the NHS to help people quit smoking.

Speaking at the European Society for Cardi-

ology congress in Rome, Professor Charalambos Vlachopoulos, from the University of Athens Medical School, said experiments were carried out on 24 adults with an average age of 30, examining the immediate effects of e-ciga-

rettes and smoking.

They found that the effects from a 30-min-They found that the effects from a 30-min-ute session of vaping – seen as a typical habit as e-cigarettes deliver nicotine at a slower rate than cigarettes – were similar to those from smoking a cigarette for five minutes. Prof Vlachopoulos warned that the UK had "rushed into" championing vaping as a method to help give up smoking, and said he



This is a more and more familiar sight as people have switched to vaping

would not recommend the use of e-cigarettes.

The findings come amid growing controversy about the safety of e-cigarettes, with little research available on the long term effects

tle research available on the long term effects of vaping.

Prof Peter Weissberg, medical director at the British Heart Foundation, said: "Although the study was not designed to show whether electronic cigarettes can cause long term damage to our blood vessels, it shows that they cannot be assumed to be risk free.

"Much more research is needed to establish the safety of long-term use of these devices."

Councillor Richard Overton, Telford & Wrekin Council's cabinet member for health. savs

kin Council's cabinet member for health, says that while it is too early to know the long-term effects of vaping, it is almost certainly safer

than smoking tobacco.

He says: "Quitting smoking is the single best thing that anyone can do for their health,

and we know that the vast majority of people who use electronic cigarettes are using them to stop smoking.

"The evidence suggests that electronic ciga-

rettes are very likely to carry a fraction of the risk to people's health of smoking regular cigarettes. However, it is impossible for anyone to know the long term effects of vaping and we certainly cannot say that electronic cigarettes are completely risk free especially for anyone who is not or has not been a smoker.
"There is little evidence of harmful effects in the short to medium term, and an absence

of evidence of significant harm to bystanders caused by e-cigarettes," says the Healthy Shropshire website.
"E-cigs are not harmless, the vapour they

produce contains some toxins, but studies have shown that these are at levels far lower than those found in tobacco smoke.

rette is a great deal safer than smoking.

rette is a great deal safer than smoking.
"There are unanswered questions on the effects of longer term use however, and we don't know about any risks to the unborn baby from exposure to vapour."

The authority adds that while mothers-to-be

The authority adds that while mothers-to-be who smoke are advised to use licensed nicotine replacement products rather than e-cigs, they should not be discouraged from vaping if it helps them stop smoking.

"Emerging evidence suggests some of the

"Emerging evidence suggests some of the highest successful quit rates are now seen among smokers who use an e-cigarette and also receive additional support from their local stop smoking services," the Shrosphire Council website adds.

cil website adds.

Research commissioned by Action on Smoking and Health has shown that the total cost to society in England of smoking is approximately £13.9 billion a year.

This includes the cost to the NHS of treating diseases caused by smoking which is about £2 billion a year.

billion a vear

Rosanna O'Connor, from Public Health England, argues that vaping "carries a frac-tion of the risk of smoking".

Deborah Arnott, chief executive of Ash said

the Athens study did not prove that e-cigarettes were as hazardous as smoking.

Evidence

Gary Footman, who runs Ecigwizard in Wellington, says he has yet to see any hard evidence that there are any dangers attached to vaping, let alone that it was as dangerous as smoking tobacco.

way of quitting altogether. It is certainly safer than smoking."

He added that the liquids used in e-ciga-rettes contained no carcinogens, unlike ciga-rettes which contained thousands of chemicals.

"A lot of my customers say if it wasn't for vaping they would still be smoking," Mr Foot-man adds.



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Brintons





Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, September 22, 2016

Level playing field may hold students back IT appears that the powers I was the oldest in the class and However, in spite of being physically

I was fortunate enough to pass the entrance exam and interview for grammar school. against everyone's expec-

I was not in any way a brilliant student and struggled my way to five GCEs, as the qualifications were then

However, 17 years after leaving school I went to evening classes covering a subject which I had failed at GCE.

that be are still trying to lump us together.

I was fortunate amount to powers and the class and th

we do not all learn at the same speed.
Many folk are brilliant from a young
age, whatever their background. Some
of us struggle and learn more slowly.
I feel that by trying to level the playing field in respect to education is quite
possibly holding back the more early
learners, whilst destroying the confidence of the slower learners.
I was a product of a grammar school
as was my late brother. He was a quick
learner whilst I developed later in life.

learner whilst I developed later in life.

ognised something in me which they pushed me into doing.

I remember refereeing a game in our

gym display and was given minor roles

our school plays.

I doubt that this would have happened if my education had been any-thing other than it was. I am, because of this, all in favour of

ammar schools.

Don't need **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** to worry about Dave

SO there we have it, David Cameron throws his toys out of the pram. This is the person whose

achievements can be written on the back of a matchbox, ie gay marriage and six years of failed Tory austerity.

Many people in the UK will be feeling the effects of that austerity for many decades to come

ades to come.

His party has put more people into poverty in living memory in this country than any other.

He now wants to do work for charity, perhaps he can hand food parcels out at local food banks, which his country is famous for creating party is famous for creating.

Maybe he could even

change the name of them to

Cameron's food store.
The Cameron legacy, which he made me become a member of at the age of 60 after working for over 60 after working for over 40 years, is his party put me out of work.

Thank you Dave.

C LLOYD

Dudley

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street olverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Don't just improve

I'M somewhat bewildered that grammar schools are this Government's hot new potato. It seems to have come completely out of the blue after being shelved for many years, what with Brexit, financial problems, Trichent, HS2, the NHS crisis, to mention just a few. They are now stirring up a furore where there does not have to be one

a furore where there does not have to be one.

I cannot remember this matter being mentioned in their manifesto. I was not aware the public had concerns over grammar schools. What I was aware of was the public had concerns over the standard of our education.

Without consultation this Government has taken upon the first properties of the concerns over the standard of our education.

Without consultation this Government has taken upon itself to again waste millions on something we do not need. What we do need is millions spent of the education of all pupils and not just the selected few, whereby again we will end up with elitism.

Where will the teachers come from to maintain grammar schools, let me guess, they will deplete our comprehensives, which in turn will further reduce any hopes of the young. Well done Conservatives, another policy the general public had no choice in. Just let the peasants do all the work and the elite get all the benefits, as usual.

PETER LOWE

Brierley Hill

This choir deserve to be on TV

I FELT I had to write to sing the praises –excuse the pun – of The Coseley Male Voice

- of The Coseley Male Voice Choir. On September 3 at Wil-liam Street Church, Brier-ley Hill, they provided an evening of wonderful enevening of wonderful en-tertainment on behalf of the The Black Country Fi-bromyalgia Support Group, held monthly at the Nine Locks Community Centre, Brierley Hill, of which I am a member.

They kindly gave up their time for free and raised a considerable amount of money for us.

They were fantastic, treating us to a medley of songs. As for the musical director Ray, well what can I say, he put his heart and soul into the performance, as did the choir. And let us not forget Steve playing on the piano.

They were all like polithed professionals, and imy honest opinion, they should be on TV.

JANINE TAYLOR-BLAKE Dudley

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Bill will back new leader but still has eye on top job

EURO MP Bill Etheridge has vowed to give his full support to new UKIP leader Diane James but says he will be back for another tilt at the top job in the future.

The Sedgley councillor came third on 12.7 per cent in the party's contest to replace Nigel Farage, which saw Ms James storm to victory on 48 per cent. But Mr Etheridge, who is also a UKIP West Midlands MEP, said he was amazed to

Mr Etheridge, who is also a UKIP West Midlands MEP, said he was amazed to receive more than 2,000 votes in the members ballot, citing it as evidence that his profile had risen sharply during his leadership campaign.

"I was a complete unknown in UKIP circles on a national scale before this campaign, so to get the support that I did is just incredible," he said.

"I'm sorry to disappoint many of my opponents, particularly those in the Labour party, but I'm not going away any interesting the profile of the support of the suppor

anytime soon.

anytime soon.
"This campaign has proved to me that there is a place in the party for people with forthright opinions.
"Should the leaders position come up in future, and providing I feel I can build on this level of support, I see no reason why I wouldn't mo for it area in."

build on this level of support, I see no reason why I wouldn't go for it again."

Mr Etheridge's campaign, dubbed Billieve in Bill', was marked by the launch of a series of controversial policy proposals. They included bringing back the death penalty, charging prisoners £40,000 a year to stay in jail, banning halal meat and slashing alcohol and tobacco duty by 50 per cent. He also called for the BBC to be privatised and proposed merging VAT with income tax.

with income tax.

"Being part of a campaign is not easy, and this one certainly was not all plain sailing," he said. "But I want people to look at me and know exactly what I'm about in terms of policy.

"I have opinions and I'll be damned."

if I ever shy away from putting them across, even if some of the things I say might not be everyone's cup of tea. What you see is what you get."

Plants are removed from landmark



A cherry picked is used to removed buddleia from the Red House Glass Cone

PLANTS which sprouted from the sides of the Black Country's famous sides of the Black Country's famous Red House Glass Cone are being re-moved after it emerged they were damaging the landmark. A cherry-picker has been sent al-most 100ft into the air to remove bud-

dleia plants which have grown out the top and sides of the building in Word-

deta plants which have grown out motop and sides of the building in Wordsley. It was crucial they are pulled out as it is believed they could damage thebrickwork.

Any damaged joins will be filled in using a replica of the building's original mortar from the 1780s.

Dudley Council's regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said:

"The Red House Glass Cone is an iconic part of the Wordsley skyline and a mark of Black Country pride in the region's glass-making heritage.

"Maintaining it is not only important for the cone's long-term structural integrity but also for civic pride in this impressive structure, which continues to be a popular visitor attraction and creative business hub."

The issue has been a common problem in recent years and a small tree

lem in recent years and a small tree growing out of the structure has pre-viously been removed from the brick-

work.
Officials from the authority have previously said preventing weeds from growing at the site was difficult. The growing at the site was difficult. The weeds and plants grow from seeds which become airborne and lodge in the cone's brickwork.

The Red House Glass Cone was built between 1788 and 1794 by Rich-

ard Bradley.

Family thanks for the care of cancer nurses

THE family of a man who was sup-ported by Macmillan nurses before his death have carried out a supermarket bag pack in Sedgley to raise money for the work of the nurses who helped him.

Keith Astbury was 66 when he died

Keith Astbury was 66 when he died on August 13 at his home on Cathe-rton Close, Tipton, after being diag-nosed with terminal throat cancer just nine weeks before. Daughter-in-law Karen Astbury, aged 39, of Ettingshall Park, Wolver-

aged 39, of Ettingshall Park, Wolver-hampton, who is married to Keith's son Craig Astbury said: "We wanted to do something positive after the re-cent loss and raise some money for Macmillan Cancer Support."

Karen and Craig's son Elliott, 11, helped to organise the supermarket bag pack on August 22 and 23 at the Co-op in Sedgley.

Keith's eldest grandchildren, twins Courtney and Leah, aged 15, who live in Greece most of the year with their mother, also helped to organise the bag pack while staying with their fa-ther Karl, 41, for the summer.

Elliott and the twins were joined by his friends Alfie Smith, Liam Hunt, Poppy Nicholls and Ellie-Mae James, who all attended Cotwall End Primary School.

Mrs Astbury added: "The customers were very generous and we actu-ally collected a grand total of £840!"

Street collections boost animal charity

A CHARITY dedicated to highlighting and preventing the exploitation and ill-treatment of animals around the globe is celebrating a successful summer fundraising push.
Hundreds of pounds were raised during two street collections for World Animal Protection.
A collection held in Wolverhampton raised £70.46, while a further collection in August in Stourbridge raised

tion in August in Stourbridge raised

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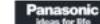
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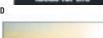
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'Cathedral' window is being restored to glory



Bryan Furber has looks at the rose window at 'the cathedral of the Black Country'. St Mark's Church. Pensnet

WORK is under way at a church known as 'the cathedral of the Black Country' to restore one of its beautiful stained-glass windows folstained-glass windows following a two-year fundrais-

ing campaign.
The £33,000 appeal was launched by parishioners at St Mark's in Pensnett after a large chunk of masonry fell in

arter a large crunk of masonry fell in 2014, prompting a safety scare. Priest-in-charge Reverend Sue Ol-iver said: "If it had fallen on some body's head it could have killed them." Money has come in steadily with

the rest of the bill at an event to cele-brate the church's 167th anniversary. A gift day is planned for Sunday when visitors will be asked to towards the cost of completing the work. The Grade II-listed building, built in the 1840s, is highly regarded for its architecture and is one of three local churches funded by Lord Ward, the Earl of Dudley. It is admired for its imposing site on a hillside, ambitious scale and impres-

a hillside, ambitious scale and impres-

wards of much, Feisslett sive interior. The story goes that Lord Ward wanted to build St Mark's big-ger and better than the other churches after falling out with leaders at nearby St Thomas's. He tried to commission a steeple higher than the other church

steepie nigner than the other church but was prevented because of the dan-ger of subsidence caused by mining. Scaffolding has gone up around the stained-glass rose window. It is hoped the work will be completed by Christ-

The gift day starts at 9am with a short service followed by breakfast and the main service at 10.30am. The church will stay open until a Songs of Praise service at 4pm.





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Councillor Marshall said the authority is 'in the very early stages' of discussing the project and still needs to come up with a business plan.

Big music festival proposed for valley



Gym efforts raise £3,600

to help premature babies

A PREMATURE baby unit has received a £3,600 donation thanks to the efforts of gym members keen to get fit and help a good cause.
Run by Raj Kaur, Unique Fitness for Ladies Only is an independent gym based in Dudley. They have raised the generous sum through a series of activities including sponsored aerobathons, raffles and fun days.
For the first time this year some of the gym members also took up

of the gym members also took up the challenge to reach 2,000 calories lost in under two hours, using the

stepper.

The money raised will be used to buy two syringe drivers for drip ma-chines for the Premature Baby Unit at Russells Hall Hospital. These ma-chines allow tiny amounts of fluid or medicines to be administered contin-uously to the babies.

Congratulations for their efforts go to Lisa Brooks, Katie Rowley, Molly Tulloch, Zivile Zigariene, Joy Patel, Sara Gwynne, Teresa Smith, Gurjit Aujla and Jo Wilde.

Karen Phillips, fundraising manager for the Dudley Group NHS Charity said: "Charitable donations to our neonatal unit make such a difference to our tiny patients and their parents during an extremely stressful time.
"We are very grateful to Raj and

stressful time.

"We are very grateful to Raj and the members of Unique Fitness who took part in the fundraising."

Gym boss Raj Kaur is the Mayor's Pride of Dudley winner and will continue to raise money for many local charities in the coming years to add to the gym members' £20,000 they have already raised over the last five years. The next event is a 5km Memory Walk for Alzheimer's.



Raj Kaur, centre, and gym member Doreen Cartwright present the cheque to Julie Marks at the Neonatal Unit

Borough is bright spot after jump in jobless

ment in the West Midlands, according to new figures that include the first month after the Brexit vote - but Dudley bucked the trend by

recording a small fall in claimants.

While the picture has been improving nationwide – buoyed by big falls in unemployment in the East of England, Scotland, the South East – the West Mid-

lands saw its figure rise by 17,000 to 176,000 be-

tween May and July.

The highest unemployment figure in more than a year made the West Midlands the worst performer of any UK region over those three mentls.

three months.

Across the UK as a whole a total of 1.63 million people are unemployed – a fall of 39,000 over the quarter and 190,000 down compared

with a year ago, giving a jobless rate of 4.9 per cent.
But there was gloomier news as the number of people claiming unemployment benefits, such as Jobseeker's Allowance, immed by 2.400. benefits, such as Jobseeker's Allowance, jumped by 2,400 to 771,000 between July and August, the Office for Na-tional Statistics said. Yhat was reflected across the West Midlands, where it rose by 1,295 to 83,330.

Rare

4,905, while the number of people claiming unemployment benefits in Sandwell rose by 30 to 7,185. In Kid-

derminster and Wyre Forest it was up 40 at 745. In Staffordshire the num-ber claiming benefits was up by 120 to 5,080 but the picby 120 to 3,080 but the pic-ture was generally better in the south of the county. The number claiming benefits in Lichfield rose 20 to 415 but the claimant count in Staf-ford fall 20 to 670 Argues ford fell 20 to 670. Across ford fell 20 to 670. Across Cannock Chase the claimant count was also down by 20 to 715 and in South Staffs it fell by 15 to 700. Meanwhile, the overall number of people in work in the West Midlands rose be-tween May and July.

west May and July.
Minister for Employment,
Damian Hinds, said: "When
it comes to our jobs market, In a rare bright spot the claimant count in Dudley fell by 20 to 5,685.

In Wolverhampton the claimant count increased by 185 to 6,830, or 4.3 per cent of the city's working population. That is more than double the national claimant Walsall rose by 120 to

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Infamous poisoners are to haunt house

HADEN Hill House will be turned into a haunted house

HADEN Hill House will be turned into a haunted house this autumn when theatre company Don't Go Into The Cellar arrives at the venue.

On October 13 The Friends of Haden Hill Estate has invited the theatre company to return to Haden Hill House with Murder by Gaslight, an audience with two of the most infamous poisoners in British history – William Palmer and Harvey Crippen.

The interactive show features lashings of black humour, said Alison Hyatt, visitor services officer at Haden Hill House. Tickets are £7 including light refreshments for performances at 6pm and 8pm. Then, on November 2, the company moves onto Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery where they will be performing Dracula's Ghost starting at 8pm. It is £6 per ticket.

The performances are suitable for over-14s.Visit sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums to book.

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A MULTI-MILLION pound scheme to tack-le congestion at a notorious roundabout has suffered a major blow after it was revealed there is uncertainty over funding.

The Birchley Island in Oldbury would be spilt in two to allow traffic to run through the centre of it, under Iplans by Sandwell Council to solve the congestion nightmare regularly experienced at the roundabout.

But the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) – a crucial funding source for the scheme – said it does not know when cash from its Local Growth Fund will be available.

Spokewoman Jaswinder Jandu said: "We will be supporting Sandwell Council in developing this priority project over the next

with the support of the support of the next four years. Sandwell Council is continuing to work up the full cost of the scheme and develop the full business case."

The LEP said it was still committed to the project, although it does not feature in its spending projections for five years.

Funding hitch for busy roundabout Canal and tunnel trust in tourism awards triumph

nel Trust are celebrating award-winning success.

They beat competition from They beat competition from around the country to take home Canal and River Trust's Living Waterways Award in the Recreation and Tourism category.
The trust collected the award at the Canal and River Trust awards evening at Birmingham Town Hall.
"We are delighted to have won the award," said Nick Morris, chief executive of Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust.
"It is a real testament to the tre-

Dudley Canal Trust staff and volun-teers to provide access to this remark-able historic site."

Dudley Canal Tunnel Trust has championed the restoration, maintenance and enjoyment of the spectacular underground labyrinth of limestone mines and canal tunnels under Dudley for 55 years. It's new £3.7million Portal Visitor

It's new 23.7million Fortal Visitor Centre, on Birmingham New Road, with interactive exhibition gallery, learning space, Gongoozler restaurant and function room, shop and trip boat base, opened in October 2015. "Over the past 50 years the trust

ings adjacent to the canal and tun-nel entrances, but has long worked towards creating a centre to enhance the wonders of the caverns," said Mr Morris.
Our fantastic new Portal Visitor

Our fantastic new Portal Visitor
Centre has already doubled the numbers of visitors to the site since it opened just under a year ago."
Christopher Rodrigues CBC, chairman of the Living Waterways Awards Assessment Panel, praised the new facilities. He said: "The trust certainly deserves to be recognised for their remarkable work to promote and celebrate this important waterways site."

The Portal centre in Dudley



Region's business confidence slump

BUSINESS confidence in the West Midlands has fallen with economic uncertainty and weaker UK demand being seen as the biggest threats to businesses' for-

as the biggest infracts to dustinesses for-tunes, according to the latest Business in Britain report from Lloyds Bank. The report, in its 24th year, surveyed the views of more than 1,500 UK com-panies, predominantly small to medium sized businesses, and tracks the overall 'balance' of opinion on a range of impor-tant performance and confidence meas-ures, weighing up the percentage of firms

thes, weighing up the percentage of firms that are positive in outlook against those that are negative.

Its confidence index – an average of respondents' expected sales, orders and profits over the next six months – has declined by 26 points to 13 per cent in the West Midlands since the previous survey

Book tribute to Black Country comedy king



Angela Daniels with The Tommy Mundon Story

THERE was plenty of laughter at the launch of a book dedicated to the memory of the Black Country's King of Comedy, Tommy Mundon.

The Halesowen-born comedian's ability to 'spread a little happiness', was clear from the many jokes and amusing anecdotes fondly re-told by his friends, including by Angela Daniels, the writer of his new biography The Tommy Mundon story.

Addressing a packed room during the book launch at the Dudley Canal Trust on Friday, Angela said: "I wanted to use as much of Tommy's own words as possible. I hope that

use as mucn of 1 ommy s own words as possible. I nope that in your mind's ear you will hear Tommy telling the jokes."

The book aims to help continue the legacy of the comic who died in 2014 after a battle with Parkinson's disease. The author knew Tommy for more than four decades, and explained that she had been able to gather a wealth of information from around 100 contributors.

The book's printing costs have been donated by Morgan and Company Solicitors and the Black Country Society, enabling profits to be donated to Mary Stevens Hospice.

Fire service ready for flood of applications

SIXTY firefighters are being recruited by West Midlands Fire Service with bosses braced for an avalanche of appli-

Fire Service with bosses braced for an avalanche of applications.

More than 3,600 people applied for 50 firefighter jobs when the service last recruited in January 2015. But this time round, the jobs will be given only to candidates living in the West Midlands. In previous recruitment drives, applications have come from across the globe.

Fire service jobs in the UK have long been hotly contested. A service boss revealed that CVs have been received this week alone from Romania and Afghanistan but would not be considered.

The jobs are largely replacements for firefighters who

The jobs are largely replacements for firefighters who have recently retired or are coming up to retirement age. Before last year's recruitment drive, the service had lost 275 firefighters in the previous four years as a result of £22 million cuts in Government funding.





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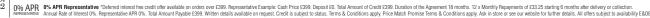












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Flags fly for pomp and circumstance at event



Enjoying the proceedings at Haden Hill House Museum and Park, is Hope Smith, aged 14, of Cradley Heath

IT was a sea of red, white and blue as flag-waving music lovers flocked to a Proms in the Park event.

had an amazing turnout and response. This is the fourth year we have run this event, supported by the friends group who do some great work."

As well as visiting Haden Hill House blue as flag-waving music lovers flocked to a Proms in

Hundreds packed into Haden Hill House Museum and Park in Cradley Heath to hear a feast of live music ranging from jazz to Halesowen Brass Band.

Visitors were able to enjoy a picnic was and many got into the Proms spirit by waving Union flags.

Alison Hyatt, visitor services manager at the museum, said: "We have

As well as visiting Haden Hill House Museum and Park, people were able to get a rare glimpse inside Haden Old Hall. The hall, which was built around the late-1600s but has parts dating back to the Tudor period, is attached to the house and museum but is seldom open to the public.

The event took place at the weekend as part of Heritage Open Days and as part of Heritage Lottery Funded project 'Best's Angels'.



People listening to Proms in the Parl



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Stourbridge Chronicle

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Poirot set to stir up a crime mystery



Tony Stamp as Poirot with Kevin W Stanley as Hastings and Sophie Waterfield as Barbara in the whodunnit Black Coffee

MURDER and mystery will descend on the Black Country as an Agatha Christie classic is performed by a Dudley theatre group this

Dudley Little Theatre's production of Black Coffee, featuring the famous Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot and his faithful sidekick Hastings, will be taking place nightly at Netherton Arts Centre until Saturday.

Black Coffee was the first mystery that Christie wrote for the stage and

it was first performed in 1930. Audiences will need to be prepared exercise
'the little grey cells' as the whodunnit
takes some unexpected turns.
Rebecca Clee, chairwoman of the

group who also stars in the play, said: "People will be left guessing right up until the end on who done it."

Formula

Black Coffee tells the tale of a guest at a country house who is believed to be the thief of a secret formula and

then matters take a lethal turn.

Mrs Clee said: "Rehearsals have been ongoing since June. This will be the third Agatha Christie we have

done as group in 20 years, so it's special to us."

The group were originally formed in 1947 and have since gone on to produce four plays per season at Netherton Arts Theatre.

The Hercule Poirot Tea Parlour within the Emporium at Brierley Hill was used for the casting call photo-

Tickets are £8 with concessions £7. They can be bought via www.dudley littletheatre.org website.

Or tickets can be ordered by phone from Chris on 01384 872583 or 07582 318017 or from Rebecca on 01902 566077 or 07954 424555.





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Royal recognition for service to community

Black Country have been awarded British Empire Medals for their services to the

Community.

A total of eight people were awarded the prestigious medals, also known as the BEM, including

three from Dudley.

They were all given their medals by the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands, Colonel George Marsh TD, at a special ceremony at Birmingham's Council House in the city centre.

Council House in the city centre.
One of those receiving applause was 83-year-old Jean Fletcher from Priory Court, Dudley. Mrs Fletcher currently volunteers one day a week at Mary Stevens Hospice, after working as a nurse until she was 76.
After receiving her BEM for community service, Mrs Fletcher said: "I am very happy to receive the award. I volunteer once a week or when they need me, which I enjoy."

Health

Another Dudley resident to receive the silver medal was Lynne Jankowska, from Wordsley.

Jankowska, from Wordsley.

The 64-year-old was awarded hers
for services to health, being one of
Dudley and Walsall Mental Health
Partnership Trusts' longest serving
experts.

In her role she has helped to make

In her role she has helped to make improvements to the design and delivery of the trust's services.

She said: "I am delighted with the award, it was such a jolly occasion and everybody obviously had been working very hard.
"I never thought I would get a medal for my work, I was amazed really."

The final Dudley resident to receive their award was athlete Shahzada Saleem. Mr Saleem, from Ploverdale Crescent, Kingswinford, is a former stone-lifting champion who also goes by the title King Shazad.

A champion stone lifer from 1985

A champion stone lifer from 1985 to 1996, the 51-year-old set up the Shazad Academy after he retired from



British Empire Medal recipient Jean Fletcher of Dudley with Vice Lord-Lieu tenant, Colonel George Marsh TD and Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Moham-med Hanif, and Mayoress Zabeda Khanam



Shahzada Saleem receives his medal

disadvantaged residents turn their lives around.

In 2001 he set up the self-funding

In 2001 he set up the self-tunding Kashmir Youth forum. The voluntary organisation has made a 'significant contribution to community cohesion'. He said: "Getting a medal from her majesty – you cannot ask for anything



Lynne Jankowska with Colonel Marsh

more. I achieved so many medals in my life, gold medals, trophies, everything but this is one of the best.

"My legacy is complete now, l trained hard all my life for this. I am so happy about this, all my family and friends are excited and happy as well. "

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Boss in airship mission after battle with cancer



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A PERSONAL battle with benefit from the medical airship procancer lies behind the plans of an airship business based near Stourbridge to aid an international medical charity.

ternational medical charity.
Straightline Aviation, at Halfpenny
Green Airport, near Bobbington, is
preparing to run a fleet of next-generation hybrid airships providing cheap
transport to hard to reach places.
The very first airship off the production line will be provided for American
charity RAD-AID, helping to transport
X-ray machines, medical scanners and
doctors to people who would normally
beyond the reach of modern facilities.
Isolated communities from Africa to
Alaska and those hit by natural disasters that make roads impassable could

gramme.
The technology will help diagnose The technology will help diagnose injuries and diseases like cancer. That strikes a personal note with Straight-line boss Mike Kendrick, who is recovering after a two-year struggle against cancers detected by medical scanning technology. He wants other cancer victims to have the same opportunity. "My life has been saved recently by the early detection and treatment of two separate cancers," said Mr Kendrick, aged 70. "Most of the world's cancer victims do not have the benefit of these essential services. While these hybrids can do a lot of amazing things.

of these essential services. While these hybrids can do a lot of amazing things, there is nothing quite as satisfying as seeing their capabilities applied to this kind of humanitarian use."



Airship boss Mike Kendrick

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Curtain up on Grand's dazzling new look



The unveiling of the Grand's new backcloth with, front, from left, director Vicky Price, committee member Mike Barlow and director lain Watkins; back, chief executive Adrian Jackson, Friends treasurer Richard Bourne, Friends chairman Gordon Hands and committee member Tony Gull

VISITORS to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre will be seeing stars in their eyes when they visit the Lichfield Street venue thanks to a dazzling new stage backcloth that cost £25,000.

The hi-tech curtains laced with LED lights have been bought by The Friends of the Grand as a major contribution towards the theatre's £1.1 million revamp, which has given the much-loved playhouse a glamorous 1920s ambience.

Treasurer of the Friends committee, Richard Bourne, said: "It is a major as-

piration of the committee to support the theatre in every way possible. "Our membership which has grown significantly over the last few years and now has associated membership numbers approaching 5,000.

Support

"We are the third largest organisa-tion of its type in the UK. We want to keep growing in order to support the theatre and help chief executive Adrian Jackson and his team bring the best productions to Wolverhampton."

The Friends of the Grand offer a single membership at 21 per year, joint membership at £26, and member benefits include 15 per cent off most ticket prices. Members also get priority booking on most productions and invites to special events.

"It really is a great money saver but also a wonderful way to support your local theatre," added Mr Bourne.

To join ask at the Grand box office, pick up a leaflet or join online at www. grandtheatre.co.uk/become-a-member/friendsofthegrand website.







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Volunteers on shortlist

VOLUNTEERS at the Black Country Living Museum have

VOLUNTEERS at the Black Country Living Museum have been shortlisted in a new award initiative.

The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust have launched a volunteer award scheme for museums in the West Midlands region, funded by Arts Council England.

The West Midlands Volunteer Awards have been created

to recognise the significant contribution made by volun-teers to the museums in the region. The Black Country Living Museum's community engagement group have been shortlisted in the 'Working Together' category.

Police get tough on drivers over cycle safety

'zero tolerance' approach as details emerged of plans by West Midlands Police to improve safety for cyclists.

More inconsiderate drivers could see themselves being prosecuted for close passes, as the force aim to

'change driver behaviour and concentrate minds on looking out for vul-

on looking out for vulnerable road users'.

The force's traffic unit has outlined measures it intends to use in a comprehensive blog, called WMP Traffic. The plans come after a review, which found safety campaigns are relatively ineffective compared to prosecutions.

The blog states: "We could make use of social media, press releases, etc, to tell motorists to 'look out' for cyclists, but this has been ongoing with both cyclists and motoryclists and, although has some positive effect, it doesn't reach the effect, it doesn't reach the

"Our time and effort is better spent enforcing the law and prosecuting. Once drivers become aware that drivers become aware that an infringement involving a cyclist is one they should expect to be prosecuted for, they suddenly become more aware of them on the road and in turn start giving them the time and space they should lawfully have.

"Drivers need to expect

By Doug Wootton

a zero tolerance approach for any offence involving a vulnerable road user, or an offence that could contrib-ute to a collision involving a vulnerable road user. The only way to change driver behaviour and concentrate minds on looking out for vulnerable road users and change driving habits is through enforcement, and the resulting fear of being

through enforcement, and the resulting fear of being prosecuted."

The Traffic Unit plans to put an officer on a cycle in problems areas. The blog adds: "We have a new partnership scheme which will see a traffic officer riding the most vulnerable locations for cyclists looking to instantly act upon close passes, distracted driving and the like.

"The officer when passed too close will let the officer up the road know, who will in turn stop the motorist. The offender will be given a choice, prosecution or 15 minutes spent being educated."

Black Country's best compete for chamber awards

MORE than 30 businesses are in the running for the 2016 Black Country Cham-ber of Commerce Awards. The 10 category winners and the overall business of

the year will be announced at the awards dinner at Wol-verhampton Racecourse on

verhampton Racecourse on November 18.
Adrian Wright, the chamber president, said: "The judging panel was very impressed with the high standard of award entries."
The full list of finalists is: Best new business: Integrity Surveying, OMG!
Online Marketing Growth, Soda Blasting and Write Size. Business services provider of the year: ACUTEC, Discovery ADR Group, Paycare and Thompson AVC. Community champion: Ideal for All, Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, The Haven lance Charity, The Haven Wolverhampton and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS

Excellence in customer service: Avanti Fitted Kitch-ens, DW Windows, FBC

Manby Bowdler and STK Fire and Risk Management Fire and Risk Management. Excellence in manufacturing and engineering: A&M EDM, HF Contracts Furniture, JC Payne (UK) and SHS Products. Exporter of the year, Entec International, Gecko Programmes, Simworx and Write Size.

Simworx and Write Size.

Innovation and technology award: Rozone, Simworx, Thomas Dudley and Top Marques Insurance.
Small business of the year: Cre8 Sales Solutions, Discovery ADR Group, Klick Business Solutions and Redbox Signmakers.
Young person or apprentice: Tom Oakley, Express & Star; Sam Shevyn, Phoenix Calibration & Services; Charlotte Humphreys and Katie Griffiths, Recruit Recruit and Jordan Holloway,

cruit and Jordan Holloway The Black Country Living
Museum Trust.
Outstanding achieve-

ment: Braveheart Education, DW Windows, Fizzog Productions and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.

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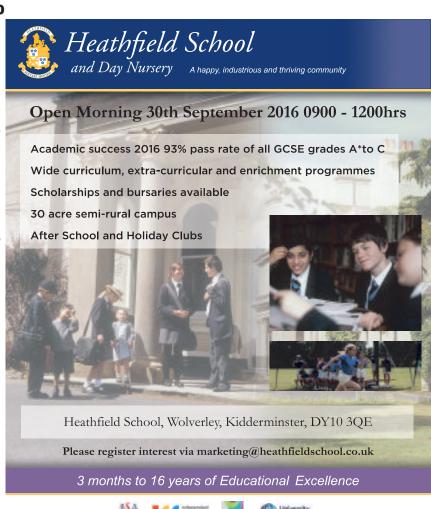
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Songwriters showcased at the double

Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury WOLVERHAMPTON singer-son

Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury
WOIVERHAMPTON singer-songwriter Dan Whitehouse is currently
on tour with his Reveal Records label
nate and songwriting hero Boo Hewerdine, adding up to a formidable double bill of talented musicianship.
First up at the delightful small
venue, on the third floor of a medieval
pub, Whitehouse arrived with a fine
new album to promote, That's Where
I Belong.
Stripped down to voice and electric
guitar, the album's songs lost no im-

pact. In fact, they became even more intense given the singer-songwriter's emotive, whole-hearted delivery, par-ticularly That's Where I Belong, You

ticularly 'Inat's where I Belong, You Brought The Sunshine and, one of his earlier songs, Why Don't We Dance. He was back on stage as Hewer-dine's co-guitarist on several songs including the rocking Sweet Honey In The Rock and Muddy Water.

Former front man of 80s band The Bible, Hewerdine can be described as the songwriter's songwriter, span-ning genres from pop to folk and back

whose impressive set included his 'one hit' Patience of Angels (it was covered by Eddi Reader) and the freewheeling

by Eddi Reader) and the freewneeling Harvest Gypsies.

He also showcased Cinderella, a song from a musical he is developing with Squeeze's Chris Difford, and a tribute to David Bowie, entitled Swimming In Mercury, from a new album due next year.

ming In Mercury, no... due next year. Catch them if you can at The Kitchen Garden Cafe in Kings Heath on Wednesday, October 5. Leon Burakowski

Tufters now spinner of good tales

An Evening with Aggers and Tuffers, Symphony Hall, Birmingham "TUFFERS, lend us your brain, I want to build an id-iot." The words of Austral-ian wicketkeeper Ian Healy in the best 'sledging' Phil Tufnell had been on the re-ceiving and of he saw.

of course, it's easy to forget he was once a cricketer. The 2003 King of the Jungle has also had stints on The Jump and Strictly and it as earlier or A Cuertien.

The Jump and Strictly and is a captain on A Question of Sport. All these formed the basis of this stage show with Test Match Special colleague Jonathan Agnew. A decent spinner, Tuffers can spin a yarn, too. He was on good form with humorous anecdotes of his time Down Under, both as a sportsman, and on I'm A Celebrity. Video highlights included a clip from Strictly to which he still remembered

which he still remembered the moves five years on. Questions were asked by the audience, while Aggers was the perfect foil with sto-ries from his own career as a player and a broadcaster. Mark Shipp



Wilde comedy is crisp, witty and

The Importance of Being Earnest
Birmingham Repertory Theatre
OSCAR Wilde pokes fun at the church, the
family and marriage as well as the idleness
of the upper class in Victorian England in
this comic play.
Director Nikolai Foster uses a disconcerting mirrored set designed to give a contemporary context but sometimes is just a
distraction. The costumes are eye-catching
but there are some strange anomalies, such
as a dress cropped above the knees in a

most un-Victorian way. The casting is superb. The script, full of well-known quotes

most un-Victorian way. The casting is superb. The script, full of well-known quotes, is delivered crisply and at a cracking pace. Cathy Tyson gives a superb performance as Lady Bracknell. It's a haughty and imperious portrayal avoiding the stereotype Edith Evans delivery of that famous 'handbag' line. Edward Franklin, as Algy, and Fela Lufadeju, as John, succeed in their attempts to be Earnest. The play continues at Birmineham Ren until Saturday. Birmingham Rep until Saturday

Jerald Smith

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workhorse to national treasure

1862 – A new service is launched between London and Edinburgh funded by the three rail firms which work the East Coast route.

1923 – Flying Scotsman is built, becoming the first locomotive of the new London &

North Eastern Railway. 1924 – The new locomotive becomes the star of the Wembley Empire Exhibitions. 1928 – The first non-stop Fly-

ing Scotsman service from Lon-don to Edinburgh is launched,

slashing the journey from 10hrs
30mins to eight hours.

1929 – It takes centre stage
in the first British talking movie,
The Flying Scotsman, starring

Ray Milland

1934 – Flying Scotsman becomes the first

steam loco to achieve a 100mph run.

1939 – The locomotive is painted black to become a wartime workhorse.

1947 – It is converted into an A3 class lo-comotive but it suffers from a poor service record when based at Leicester.

1953 - The Scotsman undergoes a number of significant changes, including being converted to left hand drive, in 1959 it gets a double chimney and, two years later, German-style smoke deflectors.

1962 - The train is to be re-launched as a purpled of modern Richard but hefere the

a symbol of modern Britain but before the launch at King's Cross it is banished to a tunnel as British Rail feels it gives the wrong

1963 – It is rescued by Alan Pegler. Huge crowds see its last run for BR on January 15. 1968 - On the 40th anniversary of the first

London-Edinburgh non-stop run, the Flying Scotsman repeats the feat.

1969 — Alan Pegler begins the first-high profile US tour but a second tour proves less successful and after running out of cash the locomotive becomes stranded in America.

1973 – A rescue package is organised by new owner William McAlpine.

1978 – Scotsman is back on the big screen, appearing in the film Agatha alongside Vanessa Redgrave and Dustin Hoffman.

1985 - The train appears in a witty British

Rail TV advert.

1988 — Flying Scotsman tours Australia and breaks the world non-stop steam record

1996 – The locomotive is bought by busi-nessman Tony Marchington. An overhaul takes four years and costs five times more

nan expected. 1999 – The Scotsman returns to England, travelling between London King's Cross and York, watched by large crowds. 2000 – It appears in the film 102 Dalma-

2004 – Another crisis over its ownership, prompts a campaign led by National Railway

Museum to save the locomotive.

2006 – A 10-year overhaul gets under way.

2016 – Flying Scotsman rides again



Pete Waterman part-owned the loco

The lifelong train nut and Walsall FC

career as a pop mogul, helping to steer to success the likes of Kylie Minogue, Ricky Astley, Bananarama, Steps and Jason Donovan, that he was able to buy

The lifelong train nut and Walsall FC to success the likes of Kylie Minogue, fan worked on the railways long before likely Astley, Bananarama, Steps and he launched the famous Stock, Aitken and Waterman music factory that took the charts by storm in the 1980s.

After leaving school, he worked as steam locomotive fireman at Stafford Road engine shed in Wolverhampton and still talks fondly on the after-dinner circuit of his time there.

And it was thanks to his subsequent

buffers after running into difficulties making the train pay her own way, and he sold it on after just six months. He later said: "Everyone who's somed it so far has gone bankrupt.
"I only owned it for six months and it didn't half put a dent in my finances. It's a poisoned chalice and it makes people do the stupidest things." The 69-year-old also revealed he received 'hate mail' during his tenure of the Scotsman for revainting it ure of the Scotsman for repainting it

British Rail green, with many people preferring its more familiar London and North Eastern Railway apple green. Waterman went on to build up a successful locomotive and carriage restoration business at Crewe

restoration business at Crewe.

Last year his collection of model trains raised more than half a million pounds at auction, with the money raised going towards training rail apprentices in restoring his full-size steam locomotives.

His scratch-built model trains went on sale in London's Mayfair, with two fetching \$100,000 exp.

fetching £100,000 each.

ng Scotsm

Report by Marion Brennan

IT was the first train to reach 100mph and broke two world records before running out of steam with the arrival of the diesel engine. But, by then, it was already a national treasure.

Rational treasure.

Flying Scotsman was named after the daily London to Edinburgh service which had linked the two capital cities since 1862.

At 10am each day, two trains set off, one from London Kings Cross Station going north and the other from Edinburgh Waverley going south, passing each other roughly halfway.

The service was called the Special Scotch Express but it was nicknamed the Scotchman or the Phing Scotchwan.

press but it was nicknamed the Scotchman or the Flying Scotchman.

When a new Al class of engine, designed by Sir Nigel Gresley, was built in Doncaster in 1923 for the new London & North Eastern Railway (LNER), it was given the official title of Flying Scotsman to publicise the route.

A year later, the name and the locomotive went clobal after it was put; on display at the British

global after it was put on display at the British Empire Exhibition in London, seen by more than 20 million people, including the youthful Alan Pegler who was later to buy her. The journey took 10 and a half hours, includ-

The journey took 10 and a half hours, including a 30-minute stop at York, where passengers would take lunch.

But, in 1928, a new type of tender was installed with a corridor that linked it with the first carriage, meaning a fresh crew could take over halfway through the journey without stopping the train

ping the train.
On May 1, the first ever non-stop London to

On May 1, the first ever non-stop London to Edinburgh service was launched, reducing the journey time to eight hours. The 392.7 mile run was by a wide margin the longest non-stop railway journey in the world.

The much-admired locomotive lived up to its crack reputation in 1934 by clocking up a speed of 100mph on a special test run, officially the first in the UK to have reached that speed although it was claimed by some that the City of Truro, owned by the Great Western Railway, had reached 102mph on a downhill stretch in 1904. During the Second World War, LNER sponsored two Spitfires named Flying Scotsman, one of many examples of positive PR by the rail com-



Atmospheric – Flying Scotman gets up steam

Champagne moment for Sir Richard Branson

pany. The British Empire Exhibition had made the locomotive famous, and LNER took full

the locomotive famous, and LNEK took run commercial advantage.

The train even took a leading role in the first British talkie movie, the Flying Scotsman, starring Ray Milland, although everyone knew the train was the real star.

During the war, the Scotsman underwent the first of several colour changes. From LNER apple green, it was repainted black, like all railway stock in this period, in order to avoid

detection by overhead bombers. It returned to green when the conflict was over, followed by blue and then a darker British Rail green when train travel in Britain was nationalised in 1948. During the war, the Scotsman carried troops between London and Scotland, although the headboards and roofboards were removed for security. She carried heavier loads and was worked harder with less maintenance.

During the 1950s, the loco began pulling pas-enger carriages between Nottingham and Lon-

don. By the following decade, steam engines had started to fall out of fashion as developments in locomotive technology produced faster and

cleaner trains.

Flying Scotsman was given a retirement date. riying Scotsman was given a retriement date, and it pulled its last scheduled run on January 14, 1963, marking the end of almost 40 years of pulling commercial, scheduled trains, includ-ing two million miles in British Rail ownership. Huge crowds turned out to see its last run.

Stories emerged that it was going to be

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Return of the world's most famous train



Flying visit to Wolverhampton in 1999

It is not the first time the legend of steam has come to the Severn Valley Railway but local rail enthusiasts are looking forward more than ever to

rooking forward more than ever to welcoming it back.

Flying Scotsman made appearances in 1990, 1991 and 1994. A lot has happened since then, including a threat to its existence, but the engine survived and recent are required. vived and a recent survey saw it top a list of the world's most famous trains.

The locomotive's first visit to the region took place not long after it returned from Australia where it covered 28,000 miles and broke the world

By Simon Stone

spent three weekends transporting staff for its then co-owner, pop tycoon passengers up and down the line between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth as the star attraction of the railway's job was one of the biggest they had Silver Jubilee Steam Spectacular. It erturned the following year for the also passed through Wolverhampton and Codsall stations in 1999 on its start of the start o

1994 was the most memorable when year restoration.
the engine's boiler failed during its five-week stay, forcing the SVR to can-Valley Railway News, said it would

non-stop steam record. Back home it out by the railway's own engineering

The Scotsman's visit in October way to Shrewsbury following a three-

cel a weekend of special services al- be good to see the locomotive again "Because we had associations with the Flying Scotsman before it went out of service and have contributed to its upkeep afterwards, we were one of the few heritage railways offered visit following its restoration," said

Mr Williams.

Last year the Flying Scotsman headed a YouGov poll of the world's best-known trains. People across four continents vote it ahead of India's Rajadhani Express, the pride of the Indian railway network, the Orient Express and the Ghan, in Australia.

Facts and figures of legendary **locomotive**

1936 - the year Scotsman designer Nigel Gresley was knighted by King Edward VIII in recognition of his contribution to the industry.

£7,944 — was the original cost to build Flying Scotsman.

70 – its length in feet. 96 – its weight in tons. 40 – years the Scotsman was in service

40 – years the sconsman before being retired with the arrival of the diesel engine. £474,619 – the losses announced by Flying Scots-man plc at the 2003 annual

general meeting. 422 – miles covered

by the engine in the re-cord-setting longest ever

cord-setting integest even non-stop run by a steam locomotive. 2,500,000 – distance in miles travelled by the locomotive over its life so far, which is the equivalent of the distance from Wolverhamp-

ton to the moon and back again, 10 times.

100 – speed in miles per hour clocked up
by the locomotive in 1934 which set a new

by the locomotive in 1934 which set a new world record for steam.

15,400 – miles covered by the engine on its obust tours around the United States and Canada between 1969 and 1973.

10.5 – the number of hours it took to travel to the control and a to Editory before a very service.

from London to Edinburgh before a new corridor tender was fitted, cutting travelling time to eight hours.

Campaign

£4,200,000 - the cost of the Scotsman's ecent overhaul.

recent overhaul.

£415,000 – amount raised by the public in the campaign to save the Scotsman for the nation. Entrepreneur Richard Branson donated £385,000 while the National Heritage Memorial Fund gave £1.8 million.

93 – the age of the Flying Scotsman.
£200,000 – the estimated cost of the locations of the location of the location.

omotive's overhaul under Tony Marchingn's ownership
£1.000.000 – the actual cost of the locomotive's overhaul under Mr Marchington's

ownership.

392 – the journey in miles between London's Kings Cross and Edinburgh Waverley at either end of the Flying Scotsman route.

£132,000 - the debt run up by first owner Alan Pegler on the Scotsman's US tour. He had to work his passage back to England on a P&O cruise ship, giving lectures about

\$5 – specially produced coins for 2012 Olympics, one of which featured an engrav-

ing of Flying Scotsman on the back

10 – the amount years it has taken to complete the Scotsman's latest restoration.

£3,000 – the target set to rescue the engine in 1963. A Save our Scotsman campaign failed to raise the cash, prompting Alan

egler to step in.

4472 – Flying Scotsman's original locomotive number

ISTOIIN



It was the first train to reach 100mph and broke two world records, getting its name after the daily London to Edinburgh service

scrapped, prompting avid railway enthusiast Pegler to step in and save it A rescue package to return the Scotsman the UK was organised by construction boss egler to step in and save it. He estimated that with the Flying Scotsman's record-breaking history, it would still attract a lot of attention, even in retirement. So he bought the engine, restored it to its 1930s condition, and in 1969 took it on a high-profile tour of the United States.

After running out of money, Pegler was later forced to file for bankrunter and the locametive

william McAlpine, now the new owner of the engine. An estimated 100,000 watched it steam from Liverpool to Derby for overhaul.

Before long it was back on the big screen again, this time Agatha alongside Vanessa Redgrave and Dustin Hoffman.

Its new owner organised for Flying Scotsman to take a town count.

to take a tour round Australia here it broke the world non-stop steam record of 442 miles, a

Delighted owner Tony Marchington in 1996 journey that included the 297 miles of straight

journey that included the 297 miles of straight track, the world's longest 'straight.'

In the mid-1990s, pop impressario and steam train fanatic Pete Waterman briefly owned a half-share in the engine but he found the purchase financially draining and reluctantly he and business partner McAlpine sold the loco.

In the years running up to this deal, the engine had deteriorated but wealthy business owner Town Marchington paid for an overshaul

owner Tony Marchington paid for an overhaul which took four years, far more than expected.

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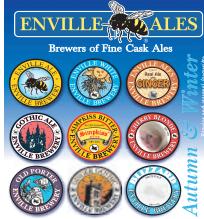
The ageing A3-class train cost him millions and forced him into bankruptcy.

The locomotive was put up for sale and in 2004 a Save Our Scotsman campaign helped raise the £2.5 million purchase price for the National Railway Museum. The public's contribution of £415,000 was matched by Sir Richard Branson and a further £1.8m was given by The National Heritage Memorial Fund. The magnificent locomotive has now undergone a further icent locomotive has now undergone a further lengthy and costly restoration.





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Taking controls was exhilarating and terrifying at the same time



At the controls - fan David Clifford in 1995

To be in the presence of train royalty is one thing – to sit in the driving seat and take the controls is taking excitement to a whole new level. The day David Clifford drove the Flying Scotsman was a dream come true for the lifelong steam fan.

He had been invited on January 5, 1995, to

He had been invited on January 9, 1990, 10 The Railway Museum at Tyseley, Birming-ham, by the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust for the announcement of a new A1 Class locomo-tive, Tornado, which would be the first new steam locomotive to be built in Britain since

David Clifford, commercial manager of Lye-based BSD Steel Service Centres, a subsidiary of British Steel which had made the name

plates and profiled the 50ft long frames for the new train, was there with three colleagues. Attendees were presented with mementoes, including a commemorative bottle of Black Sheep ale, one of only 100 produced, and copies of the plans of the Tornado and the Flying

Scotsman.

Mr Clifford, of Himley, Dudley, remembers
the day as if it was yesterday. "Despite torrential rain a number of us rushed to the station. Not only did we have a tour, the driver asked if anyone would like to have a drive."

The former train-spotter was the first in

on how to start, drive forward, pick up speed, brake and reverse, they were off. He recalls: "It was exhilarating and frightening at the

"It was exhilarating and frightening at the same time.

Going forward was peculiar – it was difficult to see where I was going as there are no eyelets on the loco. They'd been blocked up previously due to a health and safety issue.

"I was told to keep going forward and look for a yellow bin marker on side of track and, when spotted, to start braking. We seemed to be going a decent speed and I was looking anxiously for the yellow marker, as I was told that if we passed it the points to the main line would be in wrong direction.

BRIDGNORTH

HAMPTON LOADE

HIGHLEY

"I braked far too early and got a telling off. However I soon put us in reverse and we headed back to the station. Reversing was amazing as by putting my head out of cabin I could see all that was occurring. Passing over the level crossings was a special experience, seeing children waving to me as I went.

"It was a day that will stay with me forever, a dream come true."

a dream come true."

Sadly there were no pictures of his turn at the controls so when Flying Scotsman visited the Severn Valley Railway later the same year, he managed to get on board again and get some photos. and this time made sure there was photographic evidence of his brush with history

MESON THE TRACK YOU MUST STOL DEVINE ARMOST VI

IF YOU DO TRESSANSS ON THE BALLWIRK YOU BUT THE

RESEASE PROSECUTION AND ANNO THE THAN SERVICE

AND PRESIDENT A PARTICULAR

Chance to spot the iconic Scotsman as it flies through

VIEW POINTS

EARDINGTON NATURE

RESERVE: WV16 5LF

EARDINGTON HALT: WV16 5LO HAMPTON LOADE: WVI6 6BN

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK: WV15 6NG / WV16 6NW

COOMBYS FARM: WV16 6NX SEVERN LODGE: DY12 3ED ARLEY: DY12 3NF BEWDLEY, RIFLE RANGE

(DROPPING WELLS FARM):

DY12 IPU

Report by Marion Brennan

FOR months steam fans have been studying the scenic Severn Valley landscape to work out the best vantage points to capture Flying Scotsman as she steams

Flying Scotsman as she steams up and down the line.

Bosses of the heritage railway have also given thought to the best places to see the locomotive, keen to avoid scenes which saw its inaugural run in February after a 10-year refit halted because of train enthusiasts trespassing on the tracks.

Several farmers along the route have agreed to open their fields to offer extra car parking for train fans eager to get a good look at both the Flying Scotsman and the Tornado in full steam.

The railway runs parallel to the Severn Way, along the river, for much of its journey between Bridgnorth and Bewdley, offering superb vantage points. The Mercian Way cycle route also runs close to the tracks.

A Network Rail spokesman said: "We understand people are excited about seeing the famous locomotives and want to ensure you have a great day out. But the railway is a bazardous environment and we would use

derstand people are excited about seeing the famous locomotives and want to ensure you have a great day out. But the railway is a hazardous environment and we would urge people to use safe vantage points to view and take pictures of the train, stay clear of the line and not be tempted to risk their lives and the lives of others by trespassing on the tracks."

Below is a guide to a number of vantage points along the route that can be reached by public footpaths, cycleways or bridleways, which all offer great views.

Access to Kidderminster, Arley, Highley, The Engine House and Hampton Loade stations will be restricted to ticket-holders only. Free entry to Kidderminster Railway Museum will not be affected. Organisers warn there will be no road access to Hampton Loade or Highley stations during the event.

Parking at Kidderminster is limited to Flying Scotsman and Tornado ticket holders only, while parking at Bridgnorth and Bewdley stations is open to special event ticket holders only. Visitors are strongly advised to use public transport.

Tripods and other intrusive photographic equipment will be banned at stations. Drones must not be operated on or within 50m of Severn Valley Railway property.

Bridgnorth Station

For non-ticket holders there will be access at Bridgnorth Station, if space permits, at £2 per person. The Flying Scotsman will be available for viewing at 9.20am to12.00pm and 4.00pm to 6.40pm. Tornado can be seen at 12.40pm to 3.30pm and 7.10pm to 7.30pm

Eardington Nature Reserve

The nature reserve is offering parking facilities between September 21 to 25 only, opening its gates at 8am each day. The reserve is situated two miles south of Bridgnorth on the

B4555 to Highley and lies 100 yards from the railway between Eardington village and Eardington Halt. There is a flat rate daily charge of £3, with the funds going to maintaining the nature reserve. The car park is near a number of public paths overlooking the railway

Eardington Halt

Eardington Halt will be open between Sep-Eardington Halt will be open between September 22 to 26 only. The station will be offer refreshments and limited parking. An event field for parking opposite Eardington Halt, leading to paths and fields giving excellent views of the railway, will be available from 8am to 8pm for £5 per car.

Hampton Loade

way will be available for £5 per car. The field will host a barbecue, hog-roast and ice cream stall. Toilet facilities will be provided. Access to the Severn Way and Mercian Way is also available from this location.

Severn Valley Country Park

The country park at Highley and Alveley will be providing pay-and-display parking on both the Highly and Alveley sides of the river between 8am to 8pm, for £2 a day. The Alveley side of the river offers toilets and a teashop. On September 25 and 26, a minibus will run between the river and the teashop.

Coombys Farm

Hampton Loade

An event field for parking between Highley and Arley, leading to paths and fields giving

good views of the railway will be available from 8am to 8pm for £5 per car. Access to the car park is via a private lane.

BEWOLEY KIDDERMINSTER

Severn Lodge

A field between Highley and Arley, leading to footpaths and fields giving views of the railway and river will be opened for £5 per car from 8am to 8pm. Access is via a country lane; toilet facilities will be provided. There is access to the Severn Way from here.

Arlev

Views of Victoria Bridge and the railway can be had from here. A field for parking, will be available during the event for £3 per car from 8am - 8pm. Access to the car park is via a country lane.

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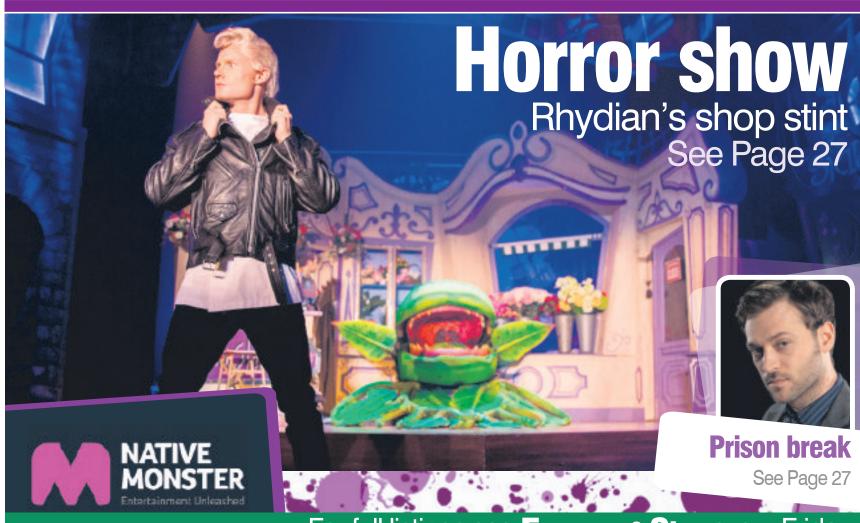
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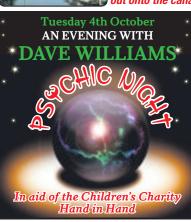
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Joan Collins



Monday, 7.30pm Town Hall, Birmingham Glamorous movie star and best-selling author Dame Joan will share some se crets from her long career and will take questions from the audience along with husband Percy Gibson Visit www.thsh.co.uk

Dead Sheep



Monday - Saturday, various Moriday – Saturday, Various Birmingham Repertory Theatre Just days before the city hosts the Conservative Party Conference, Spitting Image's Steve Nallon returns to his role as Margaret Thatcher in Jonathan Maitland's play on her downfall. Visit Birmingham-rep.co.uk

Alvin Ailey **Dance Theatre**



Today – tomorrow, various Birmingham Hippodrome The acclaimed company led by Robert Battle present two different programmes on consecutive days with African, American, Cuban and Latin American influences Visit birminghamhippodrome.com

CLUBBING

Tonight, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Annie Mac Presents All Day Raves: Birmingham

Tomorrow, The Rainbow Arena, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD. Call 0121 753 1818

JAZZ, BLUES **REGGAE & MOTOWN**

Tonight - tomorrow, The Jam House, Birmingham, B3 1QU. Call 0121 200 3030

Tower Of Song, Birmingham, B30 3EL. Call 0121 486 1300

Walsall Jazz Orchestra

Forest Arts Centre, WS3 1AG. Call 01922 654555

Jazz Tuesdavs

Tue, The Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0NH. Call 0121 772 3822

P_OP

McFly - Show Three Tonight, 02 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.

Call 0121 622 8250 Absolute Blondie

The Weekend

Ausoute Blondie
Tonight, £12.50 - £15
Huntingdon Hall, Crowngate
Shopping Centre, Worcester,
WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Anthems by Killerstream
Tomorrow, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577 661

Musicians Against Homelessness - charity show Tomorrow, £7
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

Ronan Keating

Mon - Tue, £35 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Derek Ryan - This is Me Thu, The Crescent Theatre.

Birmingham, B16 8AE Call 0121 643 5858

ROCK & METAL

Lizzie and the Banshees - A tribute to Siouxsie and the **Banshees**

Banshees Tonight, £7 - £8 The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ. Call 0121 246 2273

The Beat starring Dave Wakeling Tonight, £18 - £20 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Small Fakers – Small Faces tribute Tomorrow, £7 - £8 The RoadHouse Birmingham,

Kings Norton, B30 3DZ

Justin Hayward

Tomorrow,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 42 92 12

Remi Harris in Concert Tomorrow, The Market Theatre, Ledbury, HR8 2AQ. Call 07967-517125

One Night of Queen Tomorrow, £17 - £20 Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP.

Call 01952 382382

A Foreigners Journey Sun, £10 - £12 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1DR. Call 01782 214991 Call 01782 214991 and Thu, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552122

FESTIVALS

Toseland

Free Reign - folk rock festival Sun, £5 - £6 The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ Call 0121 246 2273

COUNTRY. FOLK & ACOUSTIC

The Gloaming Sun, £22.50 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA Call 0121 780 3333

The Acoustic Sessions Tue, The Jam House, Birmingham,

CLASSICAL

G4 Back For Good Tour

Tue, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

COMEDY

The Importance

Tonight - tomorrow, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP Call 0121 236 4455

Josh Widdicombe: What Do I Do Now... Tonight,

Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB. Call 01684 892277 **Barnstormers Comedy**

September 2016 Tomorrow, £14 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Jeremy Hardy Tomorrow, £15.50 Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Nina Conti: In Your Face

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE Call 01902 42 92 12

Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2FP Call 0121 236 4455

Pete Firman: TriX

Wed, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

King Kong Comedy Club Thu, Gunmakers Arms pub,

Birmingham, B4 6HG. Call 0121 236 8486

WiFi Wars Thu, £10 - £15 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Puppetry of the Penis

- The Vegas Show

Thu, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

THEATRE

Tonight - tomorrow, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Vesta by Chris Jaeger

Tonight, Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB. Call 01684 892277

Justin LIVE!

Sun, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 42 92 12

That'll Be The Day Wed, £20.50 - £24.50 Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

The Tempest Mon. £10 - £14 Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Jane McDonald

Tomorrow, Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD. Call 0844 871 7649

Let's Hang On Tomorrow, £15 - £18.50 Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP. Call 01952 382382

Sing-a-Long-a Grease Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent,

ST1 3AD. Call 0844 871 7649 Mon - Thu.

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

Ministry of Science LIVE Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Norma

Mon, £8 - £17 Ludlow Assembly Rooms, SY8 1AZ. Call 01584 878141

Open Door: Disorder Mon, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Little Shop of Horrors Tue - Thu, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

ARTS & CULTURE

Caroline Jariwala - Mosaics Today - Thu, Winterbourne House and Garden, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2RT. Call 0121 414 3003

The Art Of Slowing Down Today, Creative Coffee Hub, Birmingham, B29 6HJ. Call 01215 727300

The Birmingham Whisky Club Presents: Craig's List – 'Fine & Rare'

Today, The Wellington, Birmingham, Call 0121 200 3115

Neon Night Run – Mary Stevens Hospice Tonight, Himley Hall and Park, Dudley, DY3 4DF. Call 01902 895207

Kadamb Dance

Company: Bahukon Today, MAC, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

Tonight - tomorrow, £17
Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth,
WV16 4BD.
Call 01746 766477

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre Today - tomorrow, Birmingham Hippodrome, Call 0844 338 5000

Today - Thu, Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708

Žilvinas Kempinas

Today - Thu, Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708 Information Lecture: Help and Healing on the Spiritual Path through the teaching of Bruno

Groening Tomorrow, Free The Polish Millenium Centre. See http://www.bruno-groening.org/english/

MISC. **EVENTS**

All The Worlds A Stage Arts Festival Tonight, Victoria Hall.

Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD. Call 0844 871 7649

Sutton Record Fair Tomorrow,
The Carpenter's Arms Community Centre, Sutton Coldfield,

Call 01213212285

Call 07939 318973

Call 0121 373 1647

Bridge Club Mon,
Areley Kings Village Hall,
Areley Common,
Stourport-on-Severn,
DY13 0NB.

Ladies Beginner's Bhangra Bollywood/Giddha Dance Classes Mon, £4.50 North Birmingham Academy,

Check out full listings in the ticket in Friday's Express & Star

Rhydian on stage is still X-tra special

CLASSICAL crossover star and former X Factor finalist Rhydian will play sadistic dentist Orin Scrivello in Little Shop of Horrors at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre next week after a run this week, to Saturday, at Lichfield Garrick.

Welsh baritone Rhydian (Roberts), a former Birmingham Conservatoire student, was runner-up to Leon Jackson in the 2007 series of The X Factor. But Rhydian was the real winner.

But Rhydian was the real winner, going on to sell more than a million albums worldwide, release six albums in total and performing with some of the biggest names in the music industry He also carved himself a career in try. He also carved nimself a career in hit musicals. His many musical theatre credits include Grease, We Will Rock You, The War Of The Worlds, Jesus Christ Superstar and the 40th anniversary tour of The Rocky Horror Show. He was a Classical Brit Award nominee.

Platinum

With his distinctive platinum hair, pale complexion, chiselled features and ripped body, he looks like a Bond movie villain, all bulging biceps, rippling abs and a washboard stomach.

He wants to make music that people remember and star in shows that send the punters home happy and be recognised for his work, rather than X Factor associations.

"I make no bones about it, X Factor was very important to me. I wouldn't be a star of the show, in inverted commas, if I hadn't been on that and

wasn't recognisable," he said.

"It has fast-tracked my career. But I would have done these things anyway, with or without X Factor, Per



Former Birmingham music student Rhydian as the dentist in Little Shop of Horrors

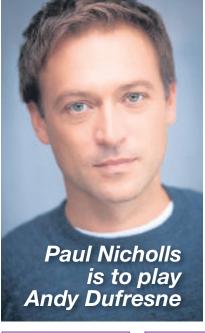
forming is my vocation. I had to have a certain quality to get through the rounds. X Factor isn't easy, let me tell you. You have to toe the party line and sell your soul to the devil a little bit. I knew what I was getting into. "But even if X Factor opens the

door, you have to turn it in night after

night to get hired. I wouldn't get the

gigs if I didn't turn it in."

See Rhydian's wicked Skid Row dentist as he takes on nerdy Seymour the florist's man-eating plant in com-edy-musical Little Shop of Horrors at the New Alexandra from Tuesday to



Shaw-fire lay success

EASTENDERS heart-throb Paul Nicholls, best known for playing Joe Wicks, will have a starring role when The Shaw shank Redemption arrives at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

The production is adapted from Stephen King's novella

The production is adapted from Stephen King's novella Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption, which was made into the 1994 film, The Shawshank Redemption.

The movie, which has been voted as the nation's favourite film, starred Tim Robbins as Andy Dufresne and Morgan Freeman as Ellis 'Red' Redding and was nominated for seven Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Actor for Freeman.

Paul Nicholls will play Dufresne in the stage version. His other TV credits include Grantchester, Law & Order: UK and The C Word.

He is also an accomplished stage actor who made his West.

The C Word.

He is also an accomplished stage actor who made his West

End debut in Long Day's Journey Into Night and has acted
at several leading playhouses in London.

Ben Onwukwe, who takes on the role of Red, boasts a 30year stage career. His most prominent TV role was as Stuart

'Recall' McKenzie in London's Burning, a character he played
for over a decade.

for over a decade.

Keeping them in line, Jack Ellis will play the part of Warden Stammas. He is best known for his role as prison warder Jim Fenner in the ITV television series Bad Girls, in which

he appeared for seven series.

The Shawshank Redemption will be at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday. Call the box office

Showcases for the songwriters

IT'S a great week for catching some fine singer-songwriters in action, including Beth Orton at the O2 Institute 2 in Digbeth on Wednesday. That's the same night quirky Welsh maverick Meilyr Jones is at The Rain-

bow's Courtyard venue nearby. Fuzzy California slacker pop comes from Colleen Green and Cassie Ramone at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath on Sunday, when nearby at the Kitchen Garden Cafe the enigmatic Jane Siberry will perform. Stay With Me Til Dawn singer Judy Tzuke is at the Robin 2 on Wednesday and the Bilston venue has a tribute to Carole King and James Taylor on Thursday.

Twist and crawl with English Beat

LACE up your boots and rev up the scooter, there's a feast of ska on the way. The English Beat, featuring Brummie singer-guitarist Dave Wakeling, will be reviving hits such as Mirror In The Bathroom, Twist And Crawl and Tears Of A Clown, at Bilston's Robin 2 tomorrow night (Friday). But it clashes with London ska-punk outfit Popes of Chillitown at Wolverhampton venue The Slade Rooms, also tomorrow night. Rooms, also tomorrow night,

There will be more ska at the Robin the following Friday with eight-piece band The Superskas. But if you fancy some classic rock, The Counterfeit Stones play the Robin this Saturday.

Chart-toppers in sold out Brum gig

GIG of the week is at the O2 Institute in Birmingham to-morrow night (Friday) where Stockport band Blossoms, who went to no1 with their self-ti-tled debut album, have sold out.

Other highlights include Rat Boy at the same Digbeth venue on Saturday, also the night that Merseysider Natalie McCool, whose indie-pop album The Great Unknown is out now, plays the Sunflower Lounge in Birmingham.

Danish band Yung are at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath on Tuesday and up-and-com-ing girl band The Tuts play the same pub venue on Wednesday

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CHOICE



Dr Tori Herridge

Walking Through Time

(Channel 4, 8pm) New series. Palaeobiologist Dr Tori Herridge follows up her documentary on the mega-flood that separated Britain from continental Europe with three more investigations, all of which explore some of the prehistoric forces that shaped the national landscape. She begins by visiting north-west Scotland. where the craggy coastline indicates an asteroid landed 1.2 billion years ago. Dr Mike Simms of Ulster Museum joins Tori as she searches for the impact crater, which would be the first of its kind discovered in

BBC₁

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live 11.30 James Martin: Home Live. 11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Live PDC Darts Champions League. Coverage of four group-stage matches. 4.30 Final Score. 5.20 BBC News. 5.30 Regional Programme. 5.40 Pointless Celebrities.

Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the second part of the proand Claudia Winkleman present the second part of the pro-celebrity dance contest's opening weekend. On Friday night, the first six couples made their dance floor debuts, and tonight, the remaining nine pairs are given a chance to show off their burgeoning talents. As ever, judges Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood are on hand to deliver their verdict on each step, kick, dip and pirouette, but at this early stage in the contest, none of the stars need worry about elimination. The scores allocated this weekend are carried over to next week's show, when voting lines open, and viewers at home get their say.

get their say.

The National Lottery: Five Star

Family Reunion. A UK family and
their long-lost overseas relatives
must work together in order to win
a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a
five-star location. The overseas
family must answer questions to
win time for their relatives in the UK

studie, who will their bedividually. 8.00 will time for time features in the Dr studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Plus, Gaby Roslin introduces the all-important weekend Lotto and Thunderball draws, as Petula Clark performs live in the studio, and does the live in the studio, and does the honours of pushing the Lotto button.

button.

Casualty. Charlie gets into a scrap with an old schoolyard bully when attending a 50-year school reunion, and David's troubled son acts out as he and ex-wife Rosa have a very public row.

9.40 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes tries to persuade the health visitor Grandad is in need of respite care – so she can go on holiday – and receives ominous news from heavend the grand from the tries. beyond the grave from her late husband. (R)

10.10 BBC News: Weather. 10.30 Match of the Day; National Lottery Update.

12.00 The NFL Show. 12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.35 BBC News.

RRC2

6.10 Film: Short Circuit. (1986) Sci-fi comedy adventure, starring Steve 0.10 r/mm into trotus (1980) Survey (1980) S British Mehul. 230 Great British Mehul. 3.00 The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and Egg. (R) 4.00 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. (R) 4.30 Live PDC Darts Champions League. Further coverage of the afternoon session of group-stage matches. 5.00 Gardeners' World. (R)

matches .3.uU dardeners World. (R)
6.00 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring
is alarmed to discover the extent of
Corporal Jones's cash-flow crisis
and takes drastic measures to help
the butcher get back on his feet.
Classic comedy first shown in
1975, starring Arthur Lowe and
Clive Dunn. (R)

Clive Dunn. (R)

6.30 Live PDC Darts Champions
League. Coverage of four further
group-stage matches from
Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff, as the
inaugural staging of the
competition featuring the world's
top eight players gets under way.
Michael van Gerwen, Gary
Anderson and Phil Taylor are
among those scheduled to Anderson and Phil Taylor are among those scheduled to participate, and all eight players will be in action once again during this session. Presented by Jason Mohammad, with commentary by Vassos Alexander and Dan Dawson, analysis from Paul Nicholson, Mark Webster and Alan Warriner-Little, and reports by Caroline Barker.

10.30 Elton John Live at Hyde Park. The

10.30 Elton John Live at Hyde Park. The singer performs a concert to a crowd of 50.000 fans for Radio 2's Festival in a Day event, featuring old favourites and songs from his recent album Wonderful Crazy Night. (R)a:

11.30 Film: Telstar: The Joe Meek Story. (2008) Biopic charting the career of the influential 1960's record producer, who was ultimately brought down by depression and paranoia. With Con O'Neill, Kevin Spacey and Pam Ferris.

1.25 Film: Leaving. (2009) A woman in a

nam Ferris.

1.25 Film: Leaving. (2009) A woman in a loveless marriage decides to abandon her husband and teenage children in pursuit of a purely sexual relationship. Drama, with Kristin Scott Thomas. 2.45 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Sooty. (R) 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.05 Super 4. (R) 7.20 Oddbods. (R) 7.25 Scrambledt: P.20 Oddbods. (R) 7.25 Scrambledt: Nerds & Monsters. (R) 7.50 Scrambledt: Horrid Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambledt: Looped. 8.30 Scrambledt: Be Cool, Scooby-Dool 9.05 Scrambledt: Be Cool, Scooby-Dool 9.05 Scrambledt: Be Cool, Scooby-Dool 9.05 Scrambledt: Adventure Time. (R) 9.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.20 Flur (R) 1.55 Mistra Family Fortunes. (R) 2.40 Pick Mel (R) 3.40 The X Factor. (R) 5.10 Ninja Warrior UK. (R) 6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.05 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.15 ITV News: Weather. o.1b 11 News; Weather.
6.30 You've Been Framed! Exploding toilets, airborne chainsaws, a cat with a talent for playing the drums and an embarrassing situation for Darth Vader are among the comedy clips submitted by fans.
(R)

7.00 Go for It. Members of the public are given a chance to demonstrate their most unusual skills in unique challenges, with successful contestants claiming a £1,000

contestants claiming a E 1,000 prize.

8.00 The X Factor. Judges Simon Cowell, Sharon Osbourne, Louis Walsh and Nicole Scherzinger face some difficult decisions this week, as the first of two Six Chair Challenges arrives. The current batch of contestants are asked to perform in front of live audiences for the first time, before each member of the panel must make a snap decisions over which six acts they would like to take through to the Judges Houses stage of the competition. However, the pressure isn't only on the judges during this round, as Simon, Nicole, Louis and Sharon retain the right to replace anyone they ve previously given a chair, should a rival contestant outshould a rival contestant out-perform their previously chosen

9.30 Newzoids. Satirical sketch show blending traditional puppetry and animation.
10.00 The Jonathan Ross Show.

11.05 ITV News; Weather. 11.20 Film: Beowulf. (2007)

1.10 Jackpot247. 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Gillette World Sport. 6.40 Motor Sport: GT Academy. 7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.35 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 9.00 The Morning Line. 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.30 The Simpsons. (R) 11.30 The Simpsons. (R) 11.30 The Simpsons. (R) 12.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.00 Gok's Fill You'r House for Free 2.00 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of races at Newmarket and Market Rasen. 4.30 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. 5.35 Ugly House to Lovely House with George Clarke. (R) 6.30 Channel 4 News.

 Channel 4 News.
 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows plumber Jon Martin and ceramicist Noreen Jaafar as they transfers a series and the series of t ceramicist Noreen Jaafar as they transform a neglected half-acre site in Gloucestershire. However, they are unable to cut down the 27 protected trees on the plot, so their solution is to build a big, modern treehouse with stilts screwed into the earth and balconies that will have views for

balconies mark will nave views for miles. (R)

8.00 Walking Through Time. New series. Palaeobiologist Dr Tori Herridge follows up her documentary on the mega-flood that separated Britain from continental Europe with three more investigations, all of which evaluers came of the neightaric. explore some of the prehistoric forces that shaped the national landscape. She begins by visiting north-west Scotland, where the north-west Scotland, where the craggy coastline indicates an asteroid landed 1.2 billion years ago. Dr Mike Simms of Ulster Museum joins Tori as she searches for the impact crater, which would be the first of its kind discovered in mainland Britain.

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown New series. Jimmy Carr hosts the hybrid comedy panel quiz show, as guest team captain David Walliams joins forces with Jonathan Ross, while Jon Richardson teams up with Joe

10.00 Film: Knight and Day. (2010) A J Film: Knight and Day. (2010) A woman gets kidnapped and dragged into a rogue secret agent's mission to clear his name after he is framed as a traitor. Comedy adventure, starring Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz.

12.10 Film: Case 39. (2009) 2.10
Hollyoaks. (R) 4.20 Food Unwrapped. (R) 4.50 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 8.25 The Fairly OddParents. 9.00 The Saturday Show OddParents. 9.00 The Saturday Show Live. 11.00 Nighthmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) 12.00 Nighthmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) 1.00 Nighthmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) 2.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 3.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 4.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 5.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

Take It Away. (R)

6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. In Essex, Del and Dael try to collect nearly £3.000 owed by an Indian takeaway, but tempers flare when they threaten to seize kitchen equipment. Meanwhile, Paul and Steve evict a tenant who is £14,000 in rent arrears, and in Surrey, Del and Dael chase nearly £4,000 owed by a car dealer to a dissatisfied customer. Finally, in west London, two agents face one of their trickiest evictions to date, with their arrival at a young couple's flat coming as a shock. couple's flat coming as a shock.

7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. The apparent

7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. The apparent suicide of a scientist serving as an executive naval officer draws. Callen and the team into the secretive world of the city's Chinese community. (R)
7.55 NCIS. The agents are investigated by the FBI on suspicion of murdering arms dealer La Grenouille, and Jenny Shepard is the prime suspect - until an eyewitness implicates Tony. (R)
8.55 5 News Weekend.

8.55 5 News Weekend. 9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the

weekend's games, including Brighton & Hove Albion v Barnsley, and Aston Villa v Newcastle United. Newcastle United.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two.

and Two.

10.30 The Cars That Made Britain

Great. Martin Kemp and Jon

Culshaw join Rufus Hound to extol

the virtues of the Ford Cortina.

Nick Baker suggests the Chevette,
while Juila Bradbury and Dom Joly

love the VW Beetle. (R)

11.30 Criminals: Caught on Camera How CCTV and technological advances are helping to bring criminals to justice. (R) 12.00 SuperCasino, 3.10 BAMMA 26

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Keith Richards' Lost Weekend 8.00
Johnny Cash: The Man, His World, His
Music 8.55 Keith Richards' Lost
Weekend 9.15 Flim: London – The
Modern Baby Folim: London – The
Modern Baby (2012) 11.20 Keith
Richards' Lost Weekend 12.15 Film:
Bicycle Thieves (1948) 2.05 Keith
Richards' Lost Weekend 2.20 Flim: I
Walked with a Zomble (1943) 3.25 Keith
Richards' Lost Weekend 3.30 Close
ITV2

ITV2

12.40 The Xtra Factor 1.40 Ninja Warrior UK 2.40 You've Been Framed! Gold 3.15 Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) 4.15 FYI Daily 4.20 Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) 5.00 Film: St Trinlan's (2007) 6.00 FYI Daily 8.00 Film: St Trinlan's (2007) 6.55 Film: The Mummy Returns (2001) 7.55 FYI Daily 8.00 Film: The Mummy Returns (2001) 9.30 The Xtra Factor 10.30 Celebridy Juice 11.20 Family Guy 12.40 American Dadl 1.40 The Cleveland Show 2.05 Mom 2.45 Feleshopping 5.45 ITVZ Niightscreen

1.55 Foyle's War 3.55 Agatha Christie's Marple 6.00 Midsomer Murders 7.55 Doc Martin 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 Lewis 1.00 You're Only Young Twice 1.50 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30

ITV4

1.40 British Superbike Championship
Highlighis 2.40 British Touring Car
Championship Highlights 4.10 Film:
Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol
(1987) 5.10 FYI Daily 5.15 Film: Police
Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987)
6.00 Fishing Impossible 7.00 Fierce 8.05
Film: Police Academy 5. Assignment
Miami Beach (1988) 9.10 FYI Daily 9.15
Film: Police Academy 5. Assignment Miami Beach (1988) 9.10 FYI Dayl 9.15 Film: Police Academy S. Assignment Miami Beach (1988) 10.00 Film: On Deadly Ground (1994) 11.00 FYI Daily 11.05 Film: On Deadly Ground (1994) 12.05 Film: The Kingdom (2007) 1.05 FYI Daily 1.10 Film: The Kingdom (2007) 2.15 Hell on Wheels 2.55 IT Wheels 2.05 TY Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Melissa & Joey 1.30 Baby Daddy
2.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 3.30 The
Goldbergs 5.30 The Big Bang Theory
9.00 Film: Die Hard (1988) 11.40 Film:
Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (1995) 1.45
Gogglebox 2.45 Empire

T.00 Dear John (2010) 3.05 Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) 4.50 The Addams Family (1991) 6.55 Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (2013) 9.00 Prometheus (2012)

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10th Kate Williams TV Social Historian



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12th Andy Kershaw World Music & News



12th George Egg **Anarchist Cook**



13th Sunny Ormonde The Archers' Lilian



13th Judie Tzuke Singer/songwriter



14th Graham Short Micro-engraver



15th Party Night with Our Friends Electric Dance the night away to the hits of the 80s.

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CHOICE



Aidan Turnei

Poldark (BBC1, 9pm)

Ross makes a deal with a criminal who offers to pay him for using Nampara Cove as a safe haven for smuggling – but Demelza does not approve of his actions. Elizabeth tries to placate George to avoid bankruptcy – but finds the price of keeping him at bay is too high while Ross comes to blows with him when he makes an unexpected appearance at a shareholders' meeting. Demelza goes into labour under dangerous circumstances. Aidan Turner, Eleanor Tomlinson, Ruby Bentall Caroline Blakiston, Beatie Edney, Jack Farthing, Luke Norris and Heida Reed star.

BBC₁

6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day.
(R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 1.45 Eat Well for Less? (R) 2.45 Points of View. 3.00 Ingenious Animals. (R) 4.00 The Great British Bake Off. (R) 5.00 Songs of Praise. 5.35 Autum: Earth's Seasonal Secrets.

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker oversees this year's One Man and His Dog at Florence Court, Co Fermanagh, with shepherds from England, with shepherds from England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland and their faithful canine assistants competing for the trophy in the 40th anniversary contest. Anita Rani explores the history of the estate and meets the families of the competitors. Including weather for the week ahead.

Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Arley Hall and Gardens in Cheshire, where a time capsule that has been buried time capsule that has been buried for 130 years is opened for the first time on camera. Other finds brought in include a gold bracelet with a tragic past that was found bricked up behind a wall, and a lost work by 19th-century artist Lawrence Alma-Tadema.

Poldark. Ross makes a deal with a criminal who offers to pay him for using Nampara Cove as a safe haven for smuggling – but Demelza does not approve of his

10.00 BBC News. 10.20 Regional Programme

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's

Chapman reviews the day's
Premier League action, focusing
on the sole match between West
Ham United and Southampton at
the Olympic Stadium.

11.15 The Women's Football Show. A
look at the biggest issues in the
women's game, focusing on
matters at both club and ternational level.

international level.

11.45 Film: Winter's Bone. (2010) A teenage girl searches for her estranged father, whose ball-jumping threatens to leave her mother and siblings homeless. Drama, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Isaiah Stone.

1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.25 BBC News.

RRC2

6.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 6.30 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) 6.30 Glorious Gardens from Above. (H)
7.15 Gardeners World. (R) 8.15
Countryfile. (R) 9.15 The Beechgrove
Garden. 9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best
Bites. 11.15 Great British Menu. 11.45
Great British Menu. 12.15 MOTD2 Extra.
1.00 Live PIC Darts Champions League.
Coverage of four group-stage matches. Coverage of four group-stage matcl 5.00 Heir Hunters. (R) 5.45 Flog It!

5.00 Heir Hunters. (R) 5.45 Flog It!
6.30 Live PDC Darts Champions
League. Coverage of the semiinals and final from Cardiffs
Motorpoint Arena, as the players
to have progressed through the
group stage hope to claim the
£100,000 first prize. Presented by
Jason Mohammad, with
commentary by Vassos Alexander
and Dan Dawson, analysis from
Paul Nicholson, Mark Webster and
Alan Warriner-Little, and reports
by Caroline Barker.
18.30 Fleabans. Surgrises are in store

10.30 Fleabag. Surprises are in store when Fleabag attends her godmother's exhibition of erotic art, forcing her to face up to her actions and reveal what became of Boo. Last in the series.

10.55 Murder in Successville. Sleet recovers in hospital after being shot, and looks back on some of his most memorable cases as he considers whether he wants to guit the police force. Last in the

11.25 Jade: Why I Chose Porn.
Documentary following a porn star as she attends shoots across Europe, exploring why she chose to abandon a career in the fashion industry after graduating from university.

industry after graduating from university.

12.05 Film: Tormented. (2009) A teenager who killed himself rises from the dead to take revenge on the classmates who bullied him into an early grave. Satirical horror, with Tuppence Middleton and Alex Pettyfer. 1.35 Sign Zone: Countryfile. John Craven visits Great Missenden. Roald Dalh's home village, to discover how a love of the great outdoors inspired his writing. Plus, a selection of archive features on artists. (R) 2.38 Holly City. Don is knocked for six by a shocking discovery about Isaac's relationship with his former mentor, while Jasmine wants Jac to acknowledge her as a sister, but comes unstuck. (R) 3.30 This is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two. 5.45 Rip Off Britain. Consumer affairs show investigating issues around the UK. (R)

Council Counci

Weatner. 3-49 II / News; Weatner.
6.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special.
Sarah Willingham, Shaun Ryder,
Michelle Dewberry and Eddie
Edwards work as a team to take on
quiz genius the Chaser and secure
a cash prize for charity. Presented
by Bradley Walsh.

7.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the second installment of ne A Factor. Dermot O Leary presents the second installment of the six chair challenge, as the contestants perform for the first time in front of an audience. Nicole Scherzinger, Simon Cowell, Louis Walsh and Sharon Osbourne each have to choose six acts to join them in the judges flouses, bringing them one step closer to the live shows – but the judges are free to change their minds at any point in the programme.

Victoria. Albert feels he needs a greater role in public affairs, and becomes involved in the antislavery movement. Victoria

becomes involved in the anti-stavery movement. Victoria matches wills with the Duke of Sussex to see that her husband is granted more respect, while Skerrett faces a dilemma when she realises that the only person who can save her cousin and child from certain death is the man she trusts the least. STUV News: Weather

10.05 ITV News; Weather 10.20 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R) 11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures.

12.15 Jackpot247, 3.00 Motorsport UK. 3.50 British Superbike Championship Highlights. 4.45 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.40 Motor Sport: 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship, 7.10 Motor

6.40 Motor Sport: 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship. 7.10 Motor Sport: British Rally Championship. 7.35 Frasier. (R) 8.00 Frasier. (R) 8.00 frasier. (R) 8.00 frasier. (R) 8.00 frasier. (R) 9.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 9.00 The Big Bang Theory. 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Film: Jungle 2 Jungle. (1997) Comedy, starring Tim Allen. 2.25 Film: Lilo & Stitch. (2002) Disney animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Daveigh Chase. 4.05 Location, Location, Location, Location. (Acation. 4.05 Location. (A) 5.10 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. 6.10 Channel 4 News. 6.30 Posh Pawn. Lawrence examines a collection of boxing memorabilia, Claudia looks through a selection of designer handbags belonging to a former model on The Price Is Right, and James takes a Ferrari for a spin in Marbeila, but finds that the owner wants £100,000 for it.
7.30 Speed with Guy Martin. Guy tries to cross the English channel on a human-powered airship. His transport takes the form of a bicycle held aloft by a helium balloon the size of a bus, with the pedals driving two propellers. He puts the machine to the test in Bedfordshire's historic Cardington Hangars, where some of the world's biggest flying machines were created, and seeks some millitary advice on surviving crash were created, and seeks some military advice on surviving crash

landings.

Celebrity Island with Bear Grylis.
The castaways have fire and water but after four days of gruelling work, still have not had a proper meal. Mark Jenkins outraged to discover Dom Joly sleeping while the others are busy funting. When an accident while fishing leaves. Lydia Bright in agony, Mark feels composited to lead a rebellion. against Dom's poor leadership.

10.05 Googlebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.05 Film: The Hurt Locker. (2008) A US bomb disposal team in Iraq is assigned a new leader whose reckless attitude puts all its members lives at risk. Drama, with Jeremy Renner.

2 Jerenry Remous.

1.30 Obsessive Compulsive Country.
House Cleaners. (R) 2.25 Grand Designs
Australia. 3.20 Embarrassing Bodies
Down Under. (R) 4.15 Food Unwrapped.
(R) 4.40 Kirstie's Handmade Treasures.
(R) 5.00 Location, Location, Location.
(R) 5.55 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R)

You are invited to a Bible Talk on the subject

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Mikshake! Mikshake! Monkey.
6.05 Mikshake! Bop Box. (R) 6.10
Peppa Pig. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina.
(R) 6.25 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.50 Zack and
Quack. (R) 7.00 Pets. (R) 7.05 Fireman
Sam. (R) 7.15 Pip Ahoy! (R) 7.30 Little
Princess. (R) 7.45 Paw Patrol. (R) 8.00
Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R)
8.30 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 8.45 Ben and
Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.55
Shimmer and Shine. (R) 9.25 Peppa Pig.
(R) 9.35 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.45 Ben and
Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.55 The
Fairly OddParents. 10.30 Football on 5:
The Championship. (R) 11.25 Football
on 5: Goal Rush. (R) 12.00 Funniest
Fails, Falls. & Flops. 12.25 The Hotel
Inspector. (R) 2.15
The Hotel Inspector. (R) 3.15
The Hotel Inspector. (R) 3.15
The Hotel Inspector. (R) 3.15
The Hotel Inspector. (R) 4.10 5 News
Weekend. 4.15 Film: The Illusionist.
(2006) Mystery thriller, starring Edward
Norton.
8.25 Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas.

6.25 Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas.
The duo challenge their youngest ever contestant to impress them with a sleight-of-hand trick, while Jonathan Ross helps an Indonesian-born magician with her routine.

her routine.

TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks. TV illusionists have been sawing ladles in half, catching builets between their teeth, reading minds and performing feats of escapology for decades. Channel 5 counts down the best, including the astonishing set-pieces of Penn and Teller, the mind-bending of Derren Brown and the street magic of David Blaine. It features spectacular illusions, such as making the Statue of Liberty disappear, intimate card tricks and spectacular illusions, such as making the Statue of Liberty disappear, intimate card tricks and the lighter side of the business, thanks to the inclusion of comesty great Tommy Gooper. Paul Daniels and Dynamo also appear in this magic compendium, with contributions from Joe Pasquale, Dick and Dom, and Stephen Mulhern. (R)

10.00 When Magic Goes Horribly Wrong, Illusions that went disastrously wrong, including stories of magicians brushes with death, as well as mishaps involving Dynamo, Paul Daniels and David Blaine.

12.55 Lip Sync Battle: Vic Reeves v Johnny Vegas. (R) 1.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Secrets of the SAS: In Their Own Words. (R) 4.00 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) 4.50 Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Keith Richards' Lost Weekend 7.40
Film: The Man Who Would Be King
(1975) 9.40 Keith Richards' Lost
Weekend 9.45 Lords of Little Egypt: Mai
Zetterling Among the Gypsies 10.15
Keith Richards' Lost Weekend 1.0.45
Film: Pandaemonium (2000) 12.40 Keith
Richards' Lost Weekend 1.10 Film: Build
My Gallows High (1947) 2.40 Keith
Richards' Lost Weekend 2.50 Close
1172

ITV2
1.30 The Xtra Factor 2.35 The Hot Desk:
Little Mix 2.45 Film: The Bachelor (1999)
3.45 FYI Daily 3.50 Film: The Bachelor (1999)
4.57 FYI Daily 3.50 Film: The Bachelor (1999)
4.57 FYI Daily 5.50 Film: Nanny McPhee (2005)
6.45 FYI Daily 5.50 Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990)
7.45 FYI Daily 7.50 F

ITV3

1.25 Film: Les Miserables (1978) 2.35
FYI Daily 2.40 Film: Les Miserables
(1978) 4.00 Film: Carry On Screaming
(1966) 5.00 FYI Daily 5.05 Film: Carry
On Screaming (1966) 5.56 Rosemary 8.77
Thyme 7.00 Midsomer Murders 9.00 Itil Be Airight on the Night's Best of the Worst 10.00 A Touch of Frost 12.15 Wire in the Blood 2.05 Wyolffe 3.00 May the Best House Win 4.40 You're Only Young Tivu's 5.30 ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4

ITV4

J. 95 Storage Wars 2.05 Film: All Quiet on the Western Front (1979) 3.20 FYI Daily 3.25 Film: All Quiet on the Western Front (1979) 5.05 Film: The Green Berets (1968) 6.15 FVI Daily 6.20 Film: The Green Berets (1968) 6.15 FVI Daily 6.20 Film: The Green Berets (1968) 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Life Inside Jail: Hell on Earth 10.00 Film: Crank (2006) 11.00 FVI Daily 11.05 Film: Crank (2006) 11.50 Film: Barb Wire (1996) 12.50 FVI Daily 11.25 Film: Barb Wire (1996) 1.55 The Big Fish Off 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen E4

5.4 3.00 The Goldbergs 4.00 The Big Bang Theory 5.55 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 6.15 The Big Bang Theory 7.15 Film: The Karate Kid (2010) 10.00 Tattoo Fixers 11.00 Body Fixers 12.05 Rude Tube 1.05 Containment 2.10 Empire 3.00 Scream Queens 3.45 Hollyoaks

2.50 The Last Mimzy (2007) 4.35 Johnny English Reborn (2011) 6.40 Beautiful Creatures (2013) 9.00 Avatar (2009) 12.10 Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (2011) 2.00 A Better Life (2011)

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Daniel 5:21

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1.30pm Blackheath

Christadelphian Hall, Blackheath, B65 8BW

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2.00pm **Dudley Queens Cross** Christadelphian Hall, High Street, Dudley, DY1 1QT

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FILM CHOICES

Abducting Zoe, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A detective tries to help a sixteen-year-old in the search for her kidnapped baby. Crime drama, starring Sammi Hanratty, Alexandra Holden and Andrea

Kidnapped: Desperate Hours, Channel 5, 3.15pm An American wife's world is turned upside down when her husband, the son of a Mexican newspaper publisher, is kidnapped. Drama, starring Teri Polo, Esai Morales and Nicholas Gonzalez. (2011)

A Daughter's Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm A grieving widow finds a shoulder to cry on in the form of a charming male nurse, but when her health subsequently begins to fail, her daughter embarks on a dangerous search for the truth about her illness starring Emily Osment, Paul Johansson and



The Cheating Pact, Channel 5, 3.15pm Three high school students convince a shy but intelligent girl to take the college entrance test for

them. After she gets a low score on one of the tests. she dies in mysterious circumstances, leaving the trio as suspects in her demise. Daniela Bobadilla, Laura Ashley Samuels and Laura Wiggins star. (2013)

The Good Witch's Charm, Channel 5, 3.15pm Newly elected mayor Cassandra Nightingale struggles to balance her political responsibilities with raising a newborn baby. Fifth in the Good Witch family drama series, starring Catherine Bell. (2012)

Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome, ITV, 10.40pm The warrior pitches up in the city of a cut-throat desert community in search of his stolen vehicle and ends up making a deal with a local dictator to get rid of her rival for power. But when the bargain turns sour, he is cast out into the wilderness – where he becomes the unlikely protector of a tribe of feral youngsters. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Mel Gibson. (1985)

New series hopes to make a good impression

hat do an Eastern European internet bride, a self-obsessed glamour model trying to rid herself of cellulitle, a teenage 'special needs' boy who interviews celebrities and Pippa Middleton all have in common?

They are just some of the roles that hugely talented Morgana Robinson has played since her small screen debut nine years ago.

And with that kind of versatility it will come as no surprise that the 34-year-old Australian-born comic has ended up plying her trade in the world of celebrity impressions.

"I'm not very good at being me," she told The Daily Telegraph just before her appearance on The Great Sport Relief Bake Off earlier this year.
"I like to hide behind a character, in

a wig or something, and be judged like that instead of as myself." "I've always been a clown – I love being stupid.

"You can relate to them [impressions] immediately, you don't have to invest any time in the character, and when someone highlights something about someone that you didn't see, it's a bit of a revelation."

Morgan got her showbiz break back in 2007 playing the aforementioned internet bride in BBC comedy The Green Green Grass.

Green Creen Grass. She then starred in the TV pilot Eight Steps to Enlightenment and a Nervous Breakdown, an improvised mockumentary. Then in 2009 she appeared in another hit BBC comedy My Family, before starring in a running sketch segment (Gilbert's Special Report) in The TNT Show.

In 2010, Channel 4 commissioned The Morgana Show, before another sketch show Very Important People also starring Terry Mynott, in which she impersonated a variety of celebrities, including Frankie Boyle, Danny Dyer, Amy Childs and Adele.

Her performance earned her the Best Comedy Breakthrough Artist award at the 2012 British Comedy Awards. Earlier this year, Robinson starred as the Duchess of Cambridge in The Windsors, a comedy parody of the

Hobinson's the Agency begins.
It is a brand-new seven-part series in which she plays the entire celebrity roster of leading talent agent Vincent Mann (of Mann Management), with Linda Hargreaves playing off Robinson in various roles.

In a groundbreaking move, Vincent has allowed a documentary crew into his agency, and given them access to the likes of Miranda Hart, Natalie Cassidy, Russell Brand, Joanna Lumley, Gregg Wallace, Mel and Sue, Danny Dyer and Adele.

In this first episode we are introduced to Vincent as he deals with Miranda Hart's burning desire to be taken more seriously as an actor and Danny Dyer's diversification into children's literature.

Morgana's characters have come in for a bit of criticism in the past. However, the comic strenuously defends all her creations, and doesn't have any such concerns about poking fun at celebrities in this new show.

"I don't think my impressions are nasty, they're celebratory," she insists



Morgana Robinson's The Agency, Monday, BBC2, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Extreme Food Channel 4, 8pm

New series. Kenyan chef Kiran Jethwa heads to Mongolia, where he joins the Kazakh eagle hunters on horseback on a quest for wild rabbit. His adventure begins in the town of Ulgii in Mongolia's westernmost province, where he sees a potentially explosive form of pressure-cooking called Boodog, involving an entire butchered sheep, and he also creates a mouth-watering rabbit pie, using his own improvised mini-pressure cooker to prepare the meat before serving it up with a nut crumble

Trump vs Clinton Live: US Presidential Debate

Channel 4, 1.45am

New series. Matt Frei presents live coverage of the first of three showdowns in which Democrat nominee Hillary Clinton and her Republican counterpart Donald Trump go head to head, with both candidates taking to the stage knowing their performance may well determine who will become the next president of the United States. Billionaire Trump takes on former US secretary of state Clinton at Hofstra University on Long Island, New York, debating major topics selected by a

moderator, with the pair having two minutes to talk about each issue and a chance to respond to what the other says.

TUESDAY Damned

Channel 4, 10pm

Given her acclaimed work in sitcoms such as Getting On and Going Forward, there was little wonder Jo Brand was given a green light to co-write and star in this new series. With the aid of fellow scribes Morwenna Banks and Will Smith (not that one), this new comedy centres on long suffering Children's Services social workers at Elm Heath council. In the first episode, Nitin, an ex-copper, is tasked with spying on the rest of the team. The excellent supporting cast includes Ms Banks, Alan Davies, Kevin Eldon, Himesh Patel and

WEDNESDAY **Grand Designs** Channel 4, 9pm

Kevin McCloud follows Matt and Sophie White from Sussex as they build a giant family house

of fun for themselves and their children. Going against the norm of designing a serious and practical home, the couple's property features a revolving bookcase door, secret dens, hiding places, one-way mirrors, and a fireman's pole. Matt uses a steel frame system to allow them to change

the layout of the property, and other changes include amending the window shapes and sizes, and adding a half floor to create a James Bond room.

> THURSDAY BBC2, 9pm

The eagerly awaited third series of Allan Cubitt's gripping crime drama is here at last - but what does fate have in store for the chillingly handsome serial

killer Paul Spector and his nemesis. Superintendent Stella Gibson? At the end of

the previous run, Spector had been caught by the police but shot by jealous husband James Tyler, and when we pick up the story, medics are fighting to save the murderer's life. News of the shooting hits the headlines, and the press and police bosses waste no time criticising Stella's handling of the case - despite the fact that she got her man. Spector's young acolyte Katie also hears the news and as she begins trying to format a way to help her idol, his wife, Sally Ann, attempts to explain what has happened to her young children. Richard Coyle and Aisling Bea join the cast alongside Jamie Dornan and Gillian Anderson.

FRIDAY

Travel Man: 48 Hours in Helsinki

Channel 4, 8.30pm Time-conscious traveller Richard Ayoade is joined by actor Paul Rudd for a brisk romp round the Finnish capital. To get their bearings the pair head straight to the ladies toilet in the Torni hotel, which offers the best view of the city. They then go kayaking and snack on some reindeer jerky at the city's Hakaniemi market. Richard and Paul also visit not one, but two saunas – one of which can be found in a well-known burger chain. The duo also visit the wilderness island of Seurasaari, go foraging, and finish up in a sweet shop.



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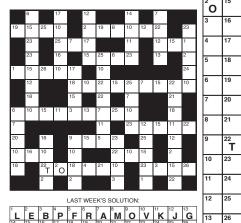
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BRAIN GYM

No.396

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

1. Completely, ever

- if, in short, only approximately (10) 7. Gather a lot
- together in the
- 8. Beware the sentinal! (4-3)

 10. Magic from the
- bowler? (3-5) 11 & 3Dn. Time when voice gives out amonast a lot of
- sheep (4,1,5)

 13. So many with less feeling (6) 15. Telephone now the
- erected (4,2) 17. Implied one missed diplomacy (4)

 18. Takes off weight in
- a flash? (8) 21. Golf-club given by
- pensive writer? (7)

 22. Fat microbe seen in
- speaks in the graveyard (10)

- 1. Drink the health of a saint? (5)
- 2. Sees that the old boy hits the ball first (8) 3 See 11 Across
- 4. Increase go-ahead line (4)
- 5. Appearing indistinctly when working at weaving machine? (7) 6. Capital amount of
- laundry? (10) 9. Does wrong by obtaining most
- successes (10) 12. Of noble mountain stock? (4-4)
- . Horse goes round taxi - gruesome! (7) 16. Gate - one of three consecutive ones in
- 10 (6) 19. No odds? (5)
- 20. Relations dunderhead finds sympathetic (4)

Quick Clues:

Across 1. Combine (10)

- 7 Flevate (5)
- 8. Cultivation (7)
- 10. Traveller (8)
- 11. Uncivil (4)
- 13. Collision (6)
- 15. Decline (6) 17. Cupid (4)
- 18. Arbiter (8)
- 21. Defraud (7)
- 22. Motionless (5)
- 23. Contrition (10)
- 1. Friendliness (5)
- 3. Collect (6)

- 12. Editing (8)
- 14. Supply (7)
- 20. Rim (4)

Niner

- 4. Masculine (4)
- 5. Vilify (7)
- 9. Voters (10)
- 16. Fault (6)

- 19. Subject (5)

- 2 Suspension (8)

- 6. Muscularity (10)

Sudoku

8

9

3

2

1

9 6

every column

every row and each of the 3x3

boxes contains

all the digits

9

8

7 | 6 |

3

4

1

4 2

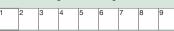
LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Cowboys; 7 Stain; 9 Tip; 10 Exchanges; 12 Chiropodist; 15 Under carrias 17 Battle-cry; 19 Gin; 21 Again; 22 Counter. Down: 1 Tonic; 2 Ebb; 3 Lynx; 4 Stone-deaf: 5 Disease; 8 Chopin; 11 Chieftain; 13 Racket; 14 Enlarge; 16 Tibes; 18 Rio; 20 And. OUICK. Enlarge; 16 Tibes; 18 Rio; 20 And. OUICK. 12 Paradoxical; 15 Break the ice; 17 Afronted; 12 Paradoxical; 15 Break the ice; 17 Afronted; 19 Ray; 21 Remit; 22 Produce. Down: 1 Beig; 2 Dry; 3 Size; 4 Timepiece; 5 Crucial; 8 Remove; 11 Maladroit; 13 Attend; 14 Proffer; 16 Fancy; 18 Earn; 20 Ode.

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to

gives something to eat, gives a wine,

discover a word which uses all nine letters

84798 gives something else to eat



Quiz

Which hills range from Bristol to Chipping Camden?

15 N W Z D X S H I U Q T Y

- Which biological divisions include Animalia, Plantae and Fungi?
- Which athlete set six world records in How many kings called James has
- Scotland had? For what is epistaxis the technical term?
- 6. Pico de Orizaba is the highest mountain in which country?
- Which author is best known for Shogun?
- 8. Which legendary figure is said to have been born at Tintagel?
- 9. In which US state is Detroit? 10. Who was the last Norman king of England?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Leo; 2 Richard Cromwell; 3 Fig:

4 Ballet: 5 Goodwood: 6 Friedrich Engels:

7 1936; 8 Gold; 9 India; 10 Jesuit priest

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qualify for a share.

quality for a share.

HomeServe Membership CEO Martin Bennett said: "As passionate supporters of our local community for more than 20 years, we are proud to once again work in partnership with the Express & Star on Cash For Your Community.

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charity so I have no doubt that they will fully get behind this initiative again." We have included a bonus token below for you to cut out and pass on. A list of groups, along with their addresses can be found at expressandstar.com/cfyc. Please do not send your tokens to the Express & Star they must

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Batteries get more power in BMW i3

By James Fossdyke

At first glance, it's just another i3, and if you look at the oily bits underneath you'd still be hard-pushed to spot the difference, but this i3 has a secret that's quite literally been

tucked away under the carpet.

As ever, there's a bank of batteries in the car's floor, but the 94Ah suffix denotes the amount of power those batteries can store. Whereas the standard i3 only holds 60Ah, the 94Ah model holds half that much again, and that means the range has increased by 50 per cent to 195 miles. If you go for the version with the petrol-powered range extender, though, BMW says you'll be looking at squeezing 276 miles from a single charge.

But despite the extra range, the new battery fits in exactly the same box as its predecessor, so there's no visible diffe ence. In fact, BMW will even let you swap out an old 60Ah battery and replace it with a 94Ah one. It's a quick job – BMW say it's around an hour and a half's work – but it is costly. Including tax, the German company estimates it'll set you back around 9,000 Euros (about £7,600).

The i3's looks have always been divisive, but even its biggest critics wouldn't hesitate to call it striking. Even though it makes very little in the way of noise, it's a car people will still turn around to look at.

Inside, it continues the left-field look, but it's strong on its environmental credentials. The plastics on the dashboard and door cards, for example, are made from plant fibres, and there's any number of recycled bits and bobs lurking in other areas. Whether they love it or hate it, whoever come along for a ride will certainly have an opinion

For all the i3's technology, it isn't actually that practical a car. Although it's tall – it's actually about the size of a high-riding Ford Fiesta – the boot measures just 260 litres, so it's less than you'll find in the back of a VW Polo.

There's plenty of headroom in the rear, though, and even if the legroom is a little limited, access is made simple by the so-called 'suicide' rear doors. They can only be opened after the front doors, and they open the other way, meaning there's no B-pillar to obstruct you as you try to get in or out.

Range

With the extra power capacity, the 94Ah i3 certainly offers an extended range. The quoted 195-mile striking distance is probably a tad ambitious, especially if your right foot becomes leaden or you try keeping up with traffic on a motorway, but you shouldn't have too much trouble getting 140 or perhaps 150 miles from it.

If you do get the urge to bury your right foot in the bulk-head, though, you'll find there's no improvement in performance, but then the i3 never has been a slouch. The sprint from 0-62mph takes 7.3 seconds – much the same as a Mazda MX-5 – and the buckets of torque produced by the electric motor make it feel even faster.

Through the corners, its height and front-wheel drive layout make it roll and understeer if you get a bit too enthusiastic, but the trade-off is ride quality. It's a comfortable machine, with suspension that's firm without being jarring, and soft seats that offer more support than you'd expect just from looking at them.

Prices start from £27,830, including the government's £4,500 grant, but if you can't get the money out of Ms May – for whatever reason – you'll be looking at a bill for about £32,000. Opt for the range extender, and that will rise to more than £35,000. Whichever way you cut it, that's a lot

But considering that the i3's closest rival, the top-of-therange Nissan LEAF, is only a couple of thousand pounds more expensive, but is far less of a premium product and

has a shorter range, it looks like relatively good value.

The i3 is a great second car for anyone who regularly drives into the city centre, but even with the extra range, it's of limited use as a tourer. Still, if you want a nippy, environ-mentally friendly hatchback to complement your main set of wheels, but don't want to sacrifice the premium feel, BMW has built the car for you.





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Megane's freshened up range pleasing

By Ian Donaldson

EVER heard of the Renault Talisman? Thought not; you're only likely to see one if you venture across the Channel or, perhaps cruise past the French embassy in London.

For the Tallisman, successor to the old Laguna, is not sold here. Too big for Britain, you see, where our larger cars need posher badges to sell. But the Tallisman plays an important part in a car very much on sale here, and crucial to the continuing better fortunes of Renault in the UK.

Say hello to the new Renault Megane, a core vehicle in the French car maker's sales ledger on our side of the Channel

and now presented in its fourth generation for our delight. Bolder looking (much, and elegantly stylish too), the new Megane is longer and lower than before but, thankfully for our crowded streets, precisely the same modest width as before. The wheels, with up to a sporty 18ins alloy rim available, are set further apart front and rear and across the body too, again helping the newcomer look energetically athletic.

Night and day, you are helped to notice the new Megane with rows of permanently lit LEDs at front and rear, which the designers say helps make the car look wider (they always like that). They will also like an interior that cuts down or buttons to the extent that just about any adjustments outside cabin temperature are handled by taps on a touchscreen whose generous size dominates the centre of the dash and adds an expensive feel; not quite in Tesla territory but the Megane inhabits a much more affordable part of the market. Prices start at £16,600 and top out at £25,500 (for the

moment) for a range that takes in four engines; a couple of diesels with 110 or 130 horsepower and a pair of petro models, offering 130hp or - in the current range topper - a 205 horsepower GT with auto gears and a bit of attitude.

Later this year a Sport Tourer estate joins the five-door hatch and 2017 sees a low emissions hybrid diesel/electric version and a pure diesel with two turbos and a healthy 165

Platform

Helping the new Megane feel grown up are front seats from the car mentioned at the top of this story – the car you've never heard of. In fact the Talisman donates much more than that to the common cause, including its engines

and other oily bit you don't see.

Most important of all is the platform the car is built on.
Again invisible to car buyers, this complicated piece of pressed, folded and welded metal costs billions to develop and sharing its start up investment makes everything more affordable. You will find it under most current and forthcoming Renault cars and lots of Nissans too, thanks to the 'stra-

tegic partnership' between the two giant automakers.

Bits that you can see that cost sharing has made more affordable are electronic features like a control centre letting you access everything from navigation (a TomTom system that is notably clear and easy to use) to phone, apps and

Posher Meganes have a bigger touchscreen that mimics a smartphone or tablet with pinch and zoom movements. although these are best managed on smoother roads.

Depending on precise model you can use what Renault

calls Multi-Sense technology to change, among other things, engine throttle response, steering weight, engine sound... even the hue of the interior lighting, perhaps opting for sporty red, eco green or comfort blue.

The new Megane has already taken a top marks five star safety rating in the official Euro test and Renault offers a full suite of driver assists from adaptive cruise control, through lane departure warning to overspeed prevention that reads traffic signs via a camera and slows you down to the legal limit. You can switch this and many other systems off if you're not in the mood.

First out driven was the £20,400 Dynamique S Nav dCi Institution was the 220,400 Synahique 3 Nav uch 10 diesel made a good initial impression, with much improved cabin quality over the old model and a cleanly minimal feel to everything. Pulled well, too, and went quietly about the business of moving you about. It was a quiet place to spend a couple of hours, though,

and a trip computer showing 53.5mpg at journey's end promised an economical time for a longer term owner.

Jumping into the reigning flagship, a £25,500 GT Nav 205 EDC and tackling some demanding moorland roads (when the dozy sheep retreated far enough) produced more smiles than before, even if 27.3mpg was less cheering. Much more supportive front seats, a generally well be-

haved automatic dual-clutch six-speed gearbox and healthy dose of power turned the fun dial from four to eight - Renault will surely produce a turn-to-eleven version in due course

The petrol engine stayed quiet and well mannered and the ride stayed the right side of too firm, with crisp steering aided by the rear tyres doing some of the turning via a four-wheel steering system that felt over-eager to start with making this fastest new Megane (so far) a fine introduction to the fresh faced range.

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condition.

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PEUGEOT 206 2002, 68,000 miles

MoT, central locking, Alloy wheels. £450. 07723 757489.

BARGAIN

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3dr hatchback, silver, MoT May 2017, very good condition, black leather, lots spent,

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genuine miles, drives, EW, pas, CL, £1,095. 07449 431723.



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1.6 ACENTA 58 reg. 5 door. 58 reg. Lady driver

Bronze 104k. £2.350 onc



LOOK

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2011, caffe latte colour, 26,000 miles, long MoT, sat nav, road tax £20per annum, £5.250 ono

LOOK

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, reg 2010, flame red, only 20,400 mile and MoT July 2017. £3,750. Telephone 07785 333589.



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CONDITION

GOOD RUNNER

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07762 824389 GOOD RUNNER

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MUST BE SEEN

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637961

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personal



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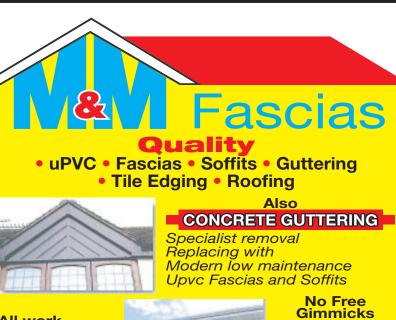
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Single Women

HI I'm Pam, 42, slim, blonde, green eyes, discreet, loves cuddles, seeking similar discreet tactile male for mutual friendship with benefits. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424101 🗎

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 single. ACA. Box 419673

DOX ±19873

LOUISE, 39, tactile good-looking solvent female WLTM spontaneous male for holidays, spoiling and lots of fun times. Age/looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424055 ₿

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA.
Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box:

NAOMI, 43, attractive fun loving NAOMI, 43, attractive fun loving female with lots of love to offer a genuine caring guy. Come on, lets share all the good things life has to offer together! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424085

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable, encounters. Telpleasurable encounters. 0906 515 3043 Box 422363

CLARA, 32yr Irish lass working away from home and friends, lonely and looking for older male companionship with no ties or complications. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424021

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult

FEMALE 50, seeks male of similar age for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350529

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

AMY 31yr old single mum, new to the area, looking to meet male companion to help make me settle in and feel special again. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424051 ∰

LORRAINE, attractive solvent brunette, 34yrs, own house/car witm gent any age, looks unimportant but must have GSOH. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 422415

TALL, slim and curvy woman, 57,,attractive with GSOH and varied interests, seeks similar man 50-65 Bristol area, for discreet assignations. Text only Mailbox: 5546538

SUSIE, 36yrs, attractive, tall slim blonde seeks fifty shades of grey with discreet gent, must have a fun side looks unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box 424045

0906 515 3039 Box 424045
DIANE, loving and caring, young
72 year old, blond hair, brown
eyes, smoker, looking for
genuine male with gosh, for
friendship, Walsall area. Tel No:
0906 500 3955 Box No:
424025 ∰

JESSIE, sophisticated, well educated brunette lady, 38yrs, WLTM man of any age for discreet chats, meetings and more. Age/looks unimportant must have SOH. Box 4107857

ELLA, 46, slim confident brunette, tired of spending lonely nights alone, seeking honest, romantic male to enjoy nights out, hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424015

Customer support

CAROLINE, bored housewife 42, seeking a little excitement. Are you 30+ and discreet, if so ping me a text and give me a few details. **Box: 4078682**

LOUISE, 39, tactile good-looking solvent female WLTM solvent female WLIM spontaneous male for holidays, spoiling and lots of fun times. Age/looks/status unimportant.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:
424055 🗒

JANE, attractive blonde lady, genuine, sincere, likes theatre, meals out, looking to meet nice looking professional single material Text only Mailbox: 5535192

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTM male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423903 🗒

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257

LYN, 39yrs, dark hair and blue eyes, WLTM action man of any age for fun and games. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423899 🗒

423899 ☐
JENNY, looking for a man, 45-55, for adult fun, must be discreet. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423827 ☐

3955 Box No: 423827 ©
LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679

JINDA, blonde green eyed lady with nice figure, likes gym, meals out, music, looking for male to enjoy fun times, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423879 ₿

SUSAN divorced female 44, OHAC, no ties, loves to keep fit and look good, WLTM mature guy to fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423849

DORRIE, 39, sporty, fun, hardworking professional, seks similar male to help liven up weekends and make her laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423883 🗒

423883 ⊕
BERNIE, 42yr old female, sophisticated, genuine, attractive, no ties, OHAC, looking for honest man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423853 ⊕

500 3955 Box No: 423853 ☐ LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679 ☐

SUE, 58, feminine lady, attractive, intelligent and slim seeks genuine strong-minded male, I have so many interests please call to hear them. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423577

RUTH, 41, single mum fed up with child play, looking for adult relationship with attractive loving guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423629 🗎

SINGLE, broadminded female, 28, large breasted, seeks gent any age for discreet no strings adult fun. Looks unimportant. Text only Mailbox: 5526652

THERESA, 44, green eyed single mum, very lonely, looking for loving companionship with male in similar situation, hopefully to become soul mates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423601 8

นะงอบ1 ปี LINDA, 58, Ionely lady, WLTM gentleman 59-64, non-smoker, likes walking in countryside and meals out. Coventry area. Tel No. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423671 ปี

Call **0207 720 7130** Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm or email us at support@jmediauk.co.uk

AUTHORITATIVE demanding lady 54, requires servile male for household duties, any age. Text only Mailbox: 5527306

SASHA 33yr old fun loving attractive single mum looking for attractive single mum looking lot love with open-minded male seeking similar fun times without ties. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423573 €

423573 ☐ 30YR old attractive confident businesswomen, frequently in area seeks older gent, for mutual spoiling, pampering and adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423633 ☐

IF you fancy a chat, are tall, dark and handsome, give Caroline, 37, beautiful, tall, fit female a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423605 🖺

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423493

LINDA, 58, lonely lady, likes walks in the countryside and meals out, WLTM a gentleman, 59-64, n/s, Coventry area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423547 8

CARRIE single 29yr old slim pretty Care Assistant, looking for a fun guy for nights in/out, good times, love and laughter. Give me a ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423489

BEV 32, 5ft, petite, very pretty, trendy with a great figure and big personality, loves animals, children and WLTM fun male to be my soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423473 €

CAROL, 38. slim gorgeous brunette with lots of interests looking to put some romance back into life, seeking willing male to spoil rotten and love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423439 8

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 9906 500 3955 Box No: 423493 🗎

Single Men

IAN, 5ft8, medium build, OHAC, late 50s, likes most things, holidays, gardening, motorbikes, WLTM similar aged lady, 50-60, with nice personality. Tel: 0906 515 3028 Box 421345

CHRISTIAN male 51, seeking Christian female, 35-45 for friendship, possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423747

HELLO I am an easy going chap and I WLTM a lady, 55-65 for a permanent relationship, so please get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424131

SIMON, kind hearted, average LIMIUN, KING hearted, average looking chap. 44yrs, own business, sporty, fun loving. Would love to meet a genuine lady to spoil and pamper. Box: 4138405

TONY from Walsall, mid 50s, TONY from Walsall, mid 50s, stocky build, looking to meet a lady any age/looks/race to have fun times with, so please get in touch if you're interested. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424067

424067 ©
MALE looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873

64 year old male, living in Northampton, WLTM a lady between 60-75, for friendship and outings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419929

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 348239 PHIL, 53, 5ft7, stocky athletic build, likes keep fit, swimming, cosy nights in, meals out, WLTM an honest, attractive, caring lady, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

421385

MALE 40s, own business, professional, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360283

SEAN mixed race 44, seeks female, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392363 🗓

NOTTINGHAM Steve 59, N/S, GSOH, loyal, sincere, likes meals out, cinema, walks, seeks sincere female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401177

MALE 43 slim, non-smoker, open minded, looking for naughty liaisons with a naughty minded lady for naughty and place. Text only Mailbox: 5543476

Text only Mailbox: 5543476
STEPHEN, 55 year old male, enjoys country walking, days out, weekends away, looking for caring female, 45-60, Leicestershire. Tel No: 0906
500 3955 Box No: 423859

40YR old easy going guy, athletic and loves life is looking for some fun with a like-minded girl. Text only Mailbox: 5545609

MARK 6ft, grey hair, 49, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391454

JOHN, looking for a mature lady for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423789

MALE, 44, very interesting person, own business, sporty, honest and genuine, likes nights out, meals out, cinema, country walks, WLTM a lady for friendship and good company leading to a permanent relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420841 🗒

47 year old guy, lots of interests, seeks female, 42-49, for LTR, in seeks female, 42-49, for LTR, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423997

PROFESSIONAL male, been hurt before, looking for female, 30-42, give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423991

MALE, young looking 70, 5ft8, decent looking, down to earth, likes horses, driving, holidays, good company, looking for female partner to share nice things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423909 🗒

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372

ATTRACTIVE open-minded male 57, seeks open-minded female any age or status to share adult times. Text only Mailbox: 5410860

Mailbox: 5410860
YOUNG 66-year-old attractive
male would love to meet lovely
lady for friendship, to enjoy
meals out etc. Text only
Mailbox: 5536750

MALE 44, WLTM lady/single mum for friendship, maybe more. Text only Mailbox: 5535244

MALE, attractive, tall, medium build and intelligent would like to meet genuine mature caring lady who wishes for a sincere relationship. **Text only Mailbox:** 5537519

WELL made broad male, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for some adult fun with lovely sexy lady for possible LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5321154

MALE, retired, genuine, easy going, looking for a lady, 70s, who is honest with a GSOH, must be genuine and local to Coventry area, for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423959

MALE, single and handsome looking for an attractive blonde who likes socialising between age 33 and 36 for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5535777

mallbox: 5535777

KIND male, 60, slim and fit, seeks ethnic lady, kids okay, must be slimmish, for day or evening meetings, married or single. Birmingham. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423907

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Founding members Inez Edwards, Trevor Appleton and his wife Ros



Linzi Kernick from Cannock, who has represented England

Badminton aces still call the shots 40 years on

FOUR decades and a number of different SPORTING FEATURE homes later, TP Riley-Norton Badminton

Club is still going strong.

Despite the popularity of the sport decreasing over the years, members of the club based at Erasmus Darwin Academy in Chasetown still get together every week, with five teams competing in the South Staffordshire Badminton

peting in the South Staffordshire Badminton League.

Formed on May 4, 1976, the club is fresh from celebrating its 40th anniversary and is far from done. Chris Finch has been a member since 1986 and chairman for the best part of a decade. Founder members Ros Appleton and her husband Trevor, Inez Edwards and Kevin Gittus are all still involved as well.

"The competitive side of badminton, league badminton, has been declining for the last 10 to 15 years," said Finch.

Started

"It's all over the country, but I think we're the only club with five teams in the South Staffordshire Bad-

minton League.

"We have three mixed teams. All three mixed teams were in Division One last season and that's the first time a club has had that many in the history of the

"We have a men's team who did well but finished second to Aston Villa, who are largely made up of Warwickshire county players.
"The ladies finished second in their league but there were only three teams, so everybody played second the four times.

"Next season, we are not sure whether there will be a ladies' league but they will still be able to play in the mixed league and the men's league as well if they wish."

Bv Joe Edwards

"The competitive side of badminton, league badminton, has been declining for the last 10 to 15 years."

Going back to the late 70s, the club started out as Furzebank Badminton Club as it was based at Furzebank Community School, now called Willenhall

zeoank Community School, now called Willenhall E-ACT Academy.

To begin with, they had just one team in Division Seven of the South Staffordshire Badminton League but over time that number grew to 11, competing in both the SSBL and Stafford & District League, with both the SSBL and Statford & District League, with some members also playing for other sides in the Cradley and Worcestershire leagues.

On September 12, 1990, the club moved to TP Riley Community School in Bloxwich and hence changed its name to TP Riley Badminton Club.

name to TP Kiley Badminton Club.

After 14 fruitful years there, the club had to move again due to the school becoming Walsall Academy and set up temporarily at a host of venues including Bloxwich Leisure Centre.

Ten years ago, they settled at Erasmus Darwin and in 2008 merged with Norton Canes Badminton Club to become TP Riley-Norton.

Some of Norton's largest serving members such

Some of Norton's longest-serving members such as Sue Benton, Paul Burton, Andy Reaney, Matbrookes and Jonathan Hassall are still playing, with other members competing in the County and County

the club, there has been a lot of effort to get more youngsters through the ranks but with limited suc-

"We have tried on quite a few occasions over the years to promote junior badminton," said Finch. "We have done it time and time again but it never seems to generate the sorts of numbers you would

"What surprises people, though, is that the standard is very high. We get people aged around 25 to 30 enquiring all of the time and we'll ask 'have you played before?'

"They will be like 'I have played with my mates' then they come along and realise the standard we

"We have got a few young guys who have been here for several months now and they're coming on well and pushing towards being in the men's team.

Enjoy

Enjoy

"We'd like more youngsters to come along through the summer. At our place we have four courts and through the summer there's usually a couple free, so we'd like them to come down and give it a try."

Competing in the SSBL with TP Riley-Norton are Cannock, Wolverhampton-based sides Tiki and Novus, and Three Spires from Lichfield.

Finch insists the members enjoy it as much as ever and there are plans in place to ensure the club keeps moving forward.

"All the club members are friends, we are mates, we love our badminton and then going for a drink together afterwards," he added.

"I'm still playing, and I'm 69, but I can't say I will personally be playing much longer.

"We all love the sport, that's why we are here still. There's a magical feeling you get when you're playing."





each other four times.





Badminton club still making a big racket after 40 years

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Honours are even in the derby match

Stourbridge 2 Halesowen Town 2 LUKE Benbow saved Glassboys from their early horror show in a frenetic Black Country barnstormer at Am-blecote on Monday night. Lee Chilton and Kyle Morrison put Halesowen two up inside five minutes but after Glassboys' boss Gary Hackett sacrificed Joe Hull and switched to a flat back four on 23 minutes the back down.

sacrificed Joe Hull and switched to a flat back four on 23 minutes, the hosts dom-inated and were level by the 56th minute thanks to Benbow's double. Shell-shocked Yeltz creaked for the rest of the match and had 'keeper Dan Platt to thank for a share of the spoils. Chilton latched on to a loose ball in the box to ram under Matt Gould from close range with 62 seconds on the clock. Stunned Stour were two down when Chilton's fierce corner was thumped home by Kyle Morrison at the far post. Kaiman Anderson looped agonisingly

omne by Kyle Morrison at the far post.

Kaiman Anderson looped agonisingly over for Halesowen, who had a credible penalty appeal waved away when Jordan Goddard's stinging shot appeared to be handled in the box.

The tide turned with Stourbridge reducing the deficit with a penalty. Aaron Griffiths was punished for a tangle with Darryl Westlake and Benbow rifled home. The hosts levelled 11 minutes after the restart when Benbow was released after a quick throw to blast inside Platt's left post from 20 yards.

Stour went for the jugular with Chris Lait denied one-on-one by the feet of Platt. The Yeltz custodian then produced a flying one-handed stop from Green's point-blank header and repeated his antics from Leon Broadhurst's effort.

Stourbridge have been handed a trip

tics from Leon Broadnurst's effort.
Stourbridge have been handed a trip
to Evo-Stik League Premier Division
rivals Ilkeston, in the third qualifying
round of the FA Cup, after a 2-1 win at
Mickleover. Halesowen, who beat Belper
1-0, face either fellow Evo-Stik Premier
clubs Nantwich Town or Marine.

Chess club caused upsets against strong rival teams

STOURBRIDGE chess teams caused up-

STOURBRIDGE chess teams caused upsets by defeating higher graded teams. In Wolverhampton League division 1, the firsts played at Telford. Stourbridge were considerably outgraded on the top 4 boards but stood a chance on boards 5 and 6. As it was Eric Horwill on boards 5 and 6. As it was Eric Horwill on boards 5 and Paul Sharratt on board 4 both won.

The top 3 boards all played well to draw with board 1 Nic Fallowfield and board 3 Julie Wilson both having winning chances but offered draws to give Stourbridge the match. The final result was 2½ - 3½ to Stourbridge. This was a surprising two points which will be very valuable at the end of the season.

Also on Wednesday, the Dudley division 2 team started their campaign at home against Halesowen. This team is giving chances to the lower graded players so SCC played without their top players. Halesowen were not adopting the same policy and brought a strong team, including the formidable Andy Ambrose on board 1. But Jeremy Humphries gained the upper hand over him and Stourbridge went on to win the match 2½-1½. match 21/2-11/2.

Edwards wins club men's singles title



From left, mixed doubles finalists Katy Piller, Adam Tranter, Dave Edwards, Amy Fellows

WOLLASTON Lawn Tennis Club produced another day of superb tennis as members competed in Saturday's finals day of its 2016 Annual Club Championships with eight adult finals and five Junior finals contested at Prestwood Drive. Dave Edwards won the men's singles beating

last year's champion Adam Tranter 6-4, 6-4. The ladies' singles final was won by Margaret Kodz who now holds two singles titles after winning 6-4 in the deciding set to first-time finalist Jane Fox.

The men's doubles was won by last year's run-ners up Adam Tranter and Noah Crampton, who beat Colin Brown and Richard Such 6-4, 6-4. The

ladies' doubles was won again by Hannah Did-lock and Yvonne Tivey, overcoming fellow Ladies A team mates Katy Piller and Becky Yates in a straight sets win.

The mixed final saw Dave Edwards and Amy Fellows triumph over Adam Tranter and Katy

Piller in a deciding set.

In the Plate tournament Shaun Ryger took the men's singles final 6-3, 6-3 against Paul Adams. They also teamed up to take the men's doubles Plate.

Heathens book place in play-offs

RESILIENT Cradley booked their place in the end of season play-offs with an impressive 53-37 home win over

an impressive 53-37 home win over high-flying Kent.
Heathens wrapped up the points with a dominant end to a thrilling encounter.
Ashley Morris got his night off to a winning start before a crucial early 5-1 from the reserves gave Heathens the lead. Ben Basford was quick away from the tapes but a determined ride from Bradley Andrews saw him work his way from the hack and blast around Kent's

Bradley Andrews saw him work his way from the back and blast around Kent's Danno Verge on the run to the line.

Ex-Heathens favourite Tom Perry, who was guesting for injured Luke Chesell, had an impressive first ride back in the red, green and white race jacket as he steamed underneath James Shanes into bend three on the second lap to net a share of the spoils.

Following a Kent 4-2 in the fifth, the Heathens responded with one of their own with a ruthless ride from Morris to soueeze out Danny Avres down the back

own with a ruthless ride from Morris to squeeze out Danny Ayres down the back straight to block the run of the visiting No. 5 to take the chequered flag. Three shared races followed before Cradley's lead was reduced to two points with Jack Thomas picking up a third while Shanes ended Morris' unbeaten run with a move around the outside away from gate four.

away from gate four.

A 4-2 from Perry and Bradley Andrews gave the Heathens confidence and they sealed the deal in style with three 5-1s, two courtesy of Clegg and Morris, after making the most of winning the toss for gate positions at the start of the meeting.

toss for gate positions as the meeting.

Local rivals Birmingham have picked Cradley in the semi-finals of the playoffs. The first leg will be held at Perry Barr on Wednesday, September 28 with the return at Monmore on Monday, October 10.

STOURBRIDGE ME TIGERS

Stourbridge 49 Sheffield Tigers 21

STOURBRIDGE continued their excellent start to the season by making it three wins from three games in National League 2 North.

Sheffield Tigers were the latest side on the receiving end as Stour powered to a 49-21 success.

Unbeaten Stour now look optimistically at a

tough October fixture list with trips to joint-National 2 North leaders Sale and Sedgley Park. The visiting Tigers had led 10-0 early on but the hosts hit back to dominate and secure another bonus point victory.

other bonus point victory.

Tigers struck first through the boot of Angus
Bowyer when Stour were penalised for holding
on in the tackle. The visitors found Stour's defence dozing, winger Henri Packard taking a pass
in space to hare untroubled to the corner.

Stung into action, Luke White's kick secured

Stung into action, Luke White's kick secured Stour's opening score.

No.8 Ciaran Moore touched down twice and winger Joe Bridger and centre Joe Heatley also scored tries while some solid kicking from Luke White saw Stour lead 29-16 at the break.

Full-back Rod Petty and a second effort from Heatley completed the try count after the break for the hosts. Tigers got a try for Alex Graham at the death.

Stourbridge are at home again on Saturday when they host league newcomers Scunthorpe

when they host league newcond (3pm).

In Midlands 1 West, Dudley Kingswinford narrowly lost 7-5 at Wolverhampton.

It proved to be a mixed day for DK fly-half Duncan Tompkins. He was instrumental in the first half's only try which saw Jim Parkes touch down to give DK a 5-0 half-time lead,

The normally, reliable Tompkins missed the conversion and two further penalties in a tight

Wolverhampton cashed in with inside centre Rhys Morgan touching down to level the scores before Bill Jones added the conversion to clinch the win.

Old Halesonians saw their winning start to the season come to an abrupt end courtesy of 44-3 defeat at the hands of Nuneaton.

England World Cup call up



Stourbridge student Grace Smith joins the England squad in Jordan for the U17 girls' World Cup

STOURBRIDGE football star Grace Smith has

STOURBRIDGE football star Grace Smith has been named in the England squad for the under-17s World Cup.

Aston Villa player Smith is studying A-levels at King Edward VI College, Stourbridge, and made her England debut last year.

The Bridgnorth girl plays in defence or midfield, was part of the young Lionesses squad that finished third in the European Championships earlier this year, thus guaranteeing their place in the tournament.

The World Cup will take place in Jordan from September 30 to October 21, featuring

more than 30 matches. England have been drawn in Group C alongside Brazil, Nigeria and North Korea. England's first group match is against North Korea at the King Abdullah II International Stadium in Amman on October 1. This is the first England women's Under-17s side to qualify for the World Cup. The squad that competed in 2008 had been invited to the tournament and reached the semi-finals. Smith started two group games at the Euros – the 12-0 battering of Belarus, where she scored twice – and the 4-3 semi-final defeat to Germany. more than 30 matches. England have been

Strollers South team step up for trophy

HARTSHILL Strollers will soon need a bigger trophy cabinet after winning yet another walking football tournament.

The club's South team lifted the cup

The club's South team lifted the cup at the second annual event organised by Dudley Council.

The South team beat Birmingham WFC's Blues team 1-0 in the final of the five-a-side tournament held at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, Rob Dunning scoring. Birmingham WFC is the new name of Beechcroft. Hartshill North team reached the semis but were knocked out by their club mates in a penalty shoot-out. Strollers' home is Summerhill School, Kingswinford.

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